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SONS & DAUGHTERS
The eleventh of May is designated as MOTHER'S DAY. We don't know who decided this but we are not inclined to investigate the matter. All we know about it is that a lot of sons and daughters (and fathers of sons and daughters who are unusually busy with their studies, children, grandchildren and jobs) may be interested in giving Mother a gift on this special day.
In order to assist you in this lively effort we wish simply to suggest a few things which SHE might enjoy having... and YOU might enjoy giving to her.

SUGGESTIONS
GARDENING GLOVES
Green Thumb—98c
Soft Touch (Plastic coated) (gay colors)—98c
Boss (Almost as soft as Soft Touch)—98c
Goatskin (The mostest) (No kid)—\$1.95
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Japanese Bamboo Handled Flower (smaller)—\$1.85
Snap-Cut Pruning—\$2.50
Thinning (The best in the world for thinning, cutting, etc.)—\$2.95
Flower Cutting (Holds the cut flower)—\$2.25
TROWEL—No blister (Rubber handle)—\$1.35
PLANT TRAYS
Small to large green plastic saucers which prevent water from soaking through and which also water the plant—5 sizes—40c to \$3.85.
HANG-A-POTS
A superb device for hanging a clay pot on a wall—inconspicuous—\$25c.
WALL BRACKETS
Artistic wrought iron designs in antique green for 1, 2, 3 & 4—1" pots—priced from \$1.60 to \$6.50 each.
SPECIAL WALL BRACKETS—up to \$30.00.
POTTERY
Italian pottery, terra-cotta pottery from \$1.75 to \$18.00.
HOSE (Not the wearing kind but the watering kind).
Pressure Mesh—A full 5/8" plastic hose guaranteed against bursting—50' for \$9.45.
KNEE GUARDS
Wonderful rubber pads that strap on and relieve the tendons from the strain of weight, lack of fat, and sudden kicks from neighbor's children—\$2.25.
WISS BRASS SHEARS
Most efficient and labor saving shear on the market—\$2.50.
For those who can't (or won't) stoop—\$8.95.
HOS-SNAPS
If she can't twist off the connections this device will relieve her wonderfully because a child of 6 years can do it easily—\$1.40.

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NATURE NOW
By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric
Blossom and Fruit, Apple Adds to State

On April 28, 1897 the apple blossom was selected as Michigan's state flower "because blossoming apple trees add so much to the beauty of Michigan's landscape". The years between have confirmed the wisdom of this choice while at the same time the versatile fruit of the tree has brought us fame and wealth.

The apple belongs to the Rose family which vies with the grasses for being the most valuable group of cultivated plants. Only two species are native to Michigan: *Pyrus*, a corollaria, commonly called the "wild sweet crab" and *Pyrus americana*, the so-called mountain ash. Many species of this family, including our domestic pears, apples and quinces, were introduced from Europe. In addition, numerous varieties of crab-apple have been developed and widely planted for their fragrant blossoms and ornamental value.

THE WILD sweet crab is found in the southern half of our lower peninsula as far north as Roscommon County. It grows in thickets at the edge of fields, along roads and behind the moving sand dunes. A small tree, 15-25 feet high with a broad rounded crown, it stands bare, spiny and secretive long after our orchard apples have come into bloom. Finally it puts out its reddish downy leaves and suddenly the dainty shell-pink flowers open, releasing an unforgettable fragrance which carries far on the spring wind.

When autumn decorates the crab with fruit, the odor of its waxy coating is so inviting that one is tempted to sample the little apples over and over again hoping to find one that is ripe and sweet. But the intense acidity persists and the fruit does not mellow until winter's end when it is eaten by birds and deer.

The first American colonists transplanted the wild crab to their dooryards and gardens in the hope that, by cultivation, its fruit would become as large and fine flavored as the European species. However they were disappointed and soon planted their lands with imported stock. By the middle of the 19th century many fine orchards were established and new types were being developed by natural selection. During his residence in London in the 1760's, Benjamin Franklin distributed among his friends a shipment of apples from America which were pronounced better than any grown in Europe.

BUT WHETHER the apple be

the wild crab or a highly selective cultivated species, its flowering and fruit bearing will follow the same pattern. The blossom is born on a cup or urn-shaped enlargement of the flowering stalk. On its rim are attached the five sepals, five petals and the numerous stamens arranged in three whorls.

After fertilization the petals drop and the fleshy fruit, which is the greatly thickened calyx, develops around the five-celled ovary. Cut an apple cross-wise and you can see several brown coated seeds ripened within each of the five parchment-like seed chambers. These form the core of the apple.

During the ripening of the fruit the starch content declines while the sugar increases to its maximum. Malic acid, which gives the fruit its tartness, gradually decreases as the ripening progresses. The average water content of the apple varies from 80 to 85 percent of its weight. A typical fruit shows total solids, 14 per cent; sugars 12 per cent. The protein content is small, the amount of fat negligible. Sweet apples do not necessarily contain more sugar than sour apples but they have less acid, hence their "sweetness."

IT IS MORNING in the old apple orchard on the hill. A gentle wind lifts the fragrance of a million blossoms, pink and white.

Those who have known an apple orchard in childhood can never forget its wild sweetness. Now the memory of it stands out to us intermingled with the throaty call of the bluebird, the far off and repetitive note of the field sparrow, the clear bright whistle of the bob white after a spring thunderstorm.

Then the violets were deep and long stemmed in the orchard grass; each day was a new adventure and we were wise enough to consider all things precious.

Garden Branch Sets Regular Meet
On May 8 the North Woods branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden association will have their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. A. G. Helgeson on Broadway boulevard with Mrs. F. Russell Olin assisting.
Mrs. Carman Adams, president; Mrs. F. J. Swindell, 1st vice-president; Mrs. N. W. Berry, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Marvin Katke, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Carl Shapter, treasurer; Mrs. Brown Lanning, recording secretary; the officers elected at their last meeting will preside.

Club Welcomes New Members
WESTCHESTER — The Westchester branch of the WNF&G is preparing for the Saturday delivery of flowering crab trees purchased for them during their recent drive. In charge of arrangements are Mrs. Robert Batchelor and Mrs. H. Graebner.
Welcomed new members are Mrs. E. D. Breedlove, Mrs. Lillian Campbell, Mrs. Clarence Cukor, Mrs. Jay Cambana, Mrs. Charles Easley, Mrs. Robert Gill, Mrs. Leon Jacobson, Mrs. Robert Johnson and Mrs. A. James Walker.

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On Her Happy Day with a LIVING GIFT from **DUNCANWYLLO'S**
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Flower of Fashion at Volume Prices. Sealed in moisture proof boxes to insure freshness. **\$2.00**

ROSES or CARNATIONS
Reds, Whites, Pinks, Yellows and Variegated Colors. **\$1.94 97c**

"LITTLE MISS"
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On all chemicals read directions and cautions before use. Do not use on plants with OILS, SOAPS, PETROLEUM.

IBEX OPACA AMERICAN HOLLY \$4.50 Ea.
TREE WISTERIA \$15.00 Ea.
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