

Scissor-Happy Writer Is Wild About Flowers

By CLEO SYMONS
Special Writer

I am, not strictly speaking, a gardener's gardener. The reason is simple. I vastly prefer to sit at back and watch other gardeners garden.

(But I'm a demom with a pair of scissors.)

It's not that I'm lacking in appreciation. Or that I don't enjoy the intoxicating aroma of newly-turned earth, scratching around among rare specimens of delphinium and so on. I love communing with Mother Nature in the intimate hush of early (but not too early) morning. And I can go into ecstasies with the most lyric over-the-clipped and fragrant loveliness of a garden by moonlight.

those obliging eager beavers—I am well supplied.

The gardener of the family has, on occasion, been known to sit at a bedraggled bunch of peonies, some storm-tossed roses or a few other plants, and gaze at them. He has also been known to zero in with the garden hose when the sun is sally forth with my scissors and that look in my eye.

(He had his 20-20 vision!)

MY NEIGHBORS—bless their souls—have hit a sublimated habit of coping with my predatory habits. Using a sound bit of psychology, they now greet me with one of their prize Chrysler Imperials, a sheaf of rare gladioli or some trilliums which they have perspired lovingly.

(Ho!)—what became of my scissors—?

IT'S THOSE HOURS between dawn and dusk that get me. All that bending and harking, that moiling and toiling over a hot waster. Bad for the sacro-lumbar! (But with a pair of scissors.)

In common with the most avid gardener in existence, I thrill to the transformation of a dismal corner wrought by a handful of seeds, a dollop of fertilizer and a little imagination. (Somebody else's.)

I suppose I could weather the caudex, the blisters and the housemaid's knees—not to mention sunburn, screaming muscles, broken nails. If only it were not for all those creatures; those hordes that either bite or sting or burrow or bedevil.

AND IT'S NOT that I'm lazy, either. It simply boils down to the fact that it's far more enjoyable to sit in the comfort of a screened porch feasting my soul on a backdrop of green, embowered by the infinite variety of summer.

Since I have a passion for flower arranging—one of my minor vices—nothing that grows is sacred. I maintain that flowers are for enjoying. And who among us can despise all his waking hours outdoors, admiring the fruits of somebody's labor?

FRANKLY, THERE exists no real affinity between me and the exhibitionist who enters only to the admiration of his neighbor. Who allows me to approach within snipping distance of his precious blooms only at my peril. Who knows to the last bud the contents of his bloom's flower beds.

Having this yen to pick, I'm constantly on the prowl for material for bouquets. Usually, there is not a table, ledge, shelf or a spot in the house that doesn't display a bud vase, a bean pod or some other container holding some kind of arrangement.

(So far the bathroom—devoid of ledge—is the only place that lacks adornment.)

YOU MAY FIND a cabbage leaf consorting with a handful of onions, a copper bowl overflowing with Queen Anne's Lace and heavenly blue chrysanthemums, or a cookie jar full of catkins, winking and clover gawping over the edge of a shaving mug. No matter what the reason, thanks to Nature—and

Traffic Death Rate Shows Decrease, State Police Say

Showing a sharp reduction for the second month in the raw, July traffic deaths in Michigan totaled 126, or 32 fewer than the 158 fatalities in the same month a year ago, according to provisional State Police figures. It was a cut of 20 per cent.

The toll for the first seven months of this year now stands at 835, which is 16, or about two per cent, more than the 819 deaths in the corresponding 1960 period. Delayed reports will increase the July and seven-month totals slightly.

January was the only other month so far this year to show a decrease compared to the same month last year.

"ENCOURAGING" as the latest reductions are, motorists and pedestrians should remember that traffic accidents in the last five months of the year account for nearly half of the annual road toll," said Commissioner Joseph A. Childs.

"This emphasizes the necessity for protective driving and walking if the cost in lives and injuries is to be lowered."

MORE COMPLETE figures for June show 119 deaths, a reduction of 14, or 11 per cent, while the 7,351 injured were 24, or one-half of one per cent, more than the 15,480 accidents were 159, or one per cent, less compared with the same month a year ago.

The accumulated record for the first seven months shows 700 deaths, 40,345 injured, and 92,285 accidents, representing 41, or six per cent, more than the 644, 38,467, or nine per cent, fewer accidents, compared with the first seven months of 1960.

ESTIMATED mileage for the first five months of the year, the latest information available, was 92 billion miles, or a drop of one per cent, while the death rate of 4.5 per 100 million vehicle miles was an increase of 11 per cent.

6 Local Cadets End Training At Summer Camp

PORT RILEY, KAN.—Six cadets from Birmingham completed six weeks of training July 28, at the Army Reserve Officer Training Camp at Fort Riley, Kan.

During the training the cadets received practical experience in instruction in tactical, technical and administrative subjects with special emphasis placed on the duties of a second lieutenant in an infantry unit. More than 1,450 cadets from colleges and universities throughout the country attended the training which began June 17.

CADET EDWARD M. Gormley, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Gormley, 7440 Jackson Park, is a 1958 graduate of Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie Du Chien, Wis. He is a student at the University of Detroit.

Cadet Charles R. Gibson, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Gibson, 1824 Crossview Road, is a 1958 graduate of Birmingham School and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

CADET DAVID L. Wentworth, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wentworth, 928 Covington Road, is a 1958 graduate of Shattuck High School in Fairbault, Minn. A member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and Scabbard and Blad Society, he is a student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Cadet Douglas A. St. John, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. St. John Sr., 2280 Worcester, is a 1957 graduate of Birmingham High School. A member of Phi Kappa Phi fraternity, he is a student at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

CADET MICHAEL A. Willis, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Adrian Willis, 850 N. Adams road, is a 1958 graduate of Northville High School and is a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Scabbard and Blad Society.

Cadet Wallace A. Scotten Jr., 21, whose parents live at 5574 Westwood, is a student at the University of Dearborn High School. A member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity, he is a student at the University of Michigan.

Moon Eclipse Demonstration At Cranbrook

CRANBROOK—On Aug. 25 one of the phenomena of nature—a partial eclipse of the moon—will be seen.

To provide viewers a chance to witness this event through the six-inch telescope a special demonstration has been scheduled in the Math-Hulbert Observatory in Cranbrook Institute of Science between 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Appointments can be made for one of each of four half-hour periods during that time for a total of 16 persons per period.

A CHARGE of \$1 will be made for all but Institute members and their guests. Each member is limited to one guest. Reservations must be made prior to demonstration date and will be handled on a first-come-first-served basis. Acknowledgment will be sent confirming appointment time.

Although officially described as a partial eclipse, 99.2 per cent of the moon will be within the earth's shadow.

"A 'shunpike' is a motorist who likes to veer from the beaten path and enjoy the byways rather than the highways. The term originates among thrifty colonial Yankees who sought ways to avoid the expensive network of toll roads operated for private gain.

"OUR MAIN difficulty here, and anywhere we might travel, for that matter, is food," commented Amareh. "Because our religion is that of Islam, the followers of Mohammed do not drink alcohol or eat any pork product. This slightly limits our diet."

Quite often restaurant people don't understand the situation, particularly since our dietary laws specify that if a serving spoon from a pan filled with pork is then dipped into a cooking container of beef or chicken, for us the food is contaminated and we cannot touch it. I suppose, too," he adds, "everyone who is away from home misses keenly the special dishes to which he is accustomed."

The visitors explained that their diet normally contains a great deal of rice, "not just a little dab of rice and plain," he pointed out, "with all kinds of succulent vegetables, with raisins or mutton and many different spices. They are also fond of large salads of lettuce and vegetables.

For a beverage they drink tea, coffee or milk. As for 'American' dishes, the Somali students are particularly partial to fried chicken and Italian spaghetti.

TWO OF THE Somali men are married, four are engaged and one is a bachelor. Since study is their main and almost full-time occupation, their social life is somewhat limited.

While three of the men haven't decided definitely yet on their field of concentration, Amareh and Fahiyah expect to major in mathematics. Ahmed Mohammed has plans to major in physics and Nu Ahmed Osman is interested in majoring in industrial arts.

When it comes to describing their home country with its rolling miles of grass land, great plains and lofty northern mountains, the Somali visitors are understandably enthusiastic about "the great plains being made, now that our country is free," plans for the future of their new republic and the part they are dedicated to play once they return.

August Is Peak Month For Shooting Stars

August is the month of shooting stars. As many as one meteor per minute may be seen at the peak period, said a University of Michigan astronomer says.

Shooting stars, most of them no larger than a grain of sand, will be seen during the month of August, according to the astronomer. They will reach their peak in the early morning hours Saturday.

ON AN ORDINARY night about one shooting star per hour may be seen, Professor Losh says. "Although they may appear in any part of the sky, their paths, when traced back, seem to intersect in the northeast where the constellation of Perseus will be rising around 10 a.m.

"A Perseid (or meteor), which flashes into our sky and appears as bright as the North Star, is probably no larger than the head of a pin. Its brilliancy lies in the speed at which it enters our earth's atmosphere.

"THESE PIECES of iron and stone, coming in at very high rates, probably around 40 miles per second—are checked, and the resulting friction set them burning.

"Most of them burn themselves out in the plume," the U-M astronomer explains.

FEW PERSEIDS will appear before midnight, the number increasing sharply toward dawn. They have often been called the "tears of St. Lawrence," because his feast falls on Aug. 10.

"Today we know that comets and meteors are related," Professor Losh says. "What created comets is not known, but because there are comets we have meteors."

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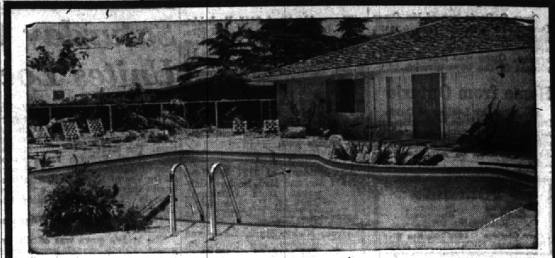
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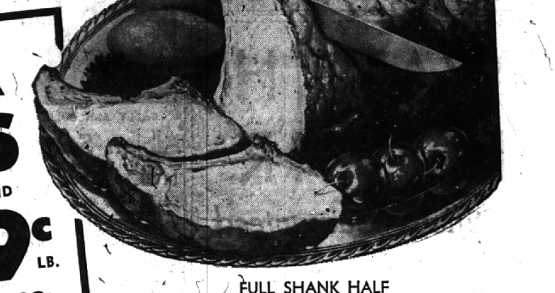
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EMU Somali Students Describe Native Land

Teachers in America who are concerned about overseas classes, standardized schools and low pay scales might well compare their problems with those of their professional colleagues in the newly Independent African Republic of Somalia. There teachers can be transferred at will by the government anywhere within the 246,000 square miles of the east coast country.

One of the seven Somali students now attending classes at Eastern Michigan University explains such a policy as being based on a technique. "When our training is complete, we will teach or govern schools wherever our government sends us," reports Abdullahi Dirir Amareh, who comes from the Somali town of Hargeisa. "Our educational system is, you see, completely centralized by our government."

By western standards, an estimated 30 per cent of the five million population of the country is deemed illiterate, setting a formidable task for the 341 schools. However, the Somali students at Eastern report that there are extensive and intensive plans for expanding the entire educational system, from setting up many more grade schools to the establishment of the country's first university.

ORIGINALLY, this former Italian and British protectorate expected to receive a large number of immigrants from America, Britain and Italy, but recent news reports say that the Soviet Union has granted Somalia all \$50,000,000 in loans for industrial and agricultural development, as well as promising to build, without cost, two hospitals, a high school, a printing plant and a radio station.

All of the seven Somali students at Eastern had high school diplomas from the U.S.A.'s International Cooperation Administration's briefing session given them in their home country.

Hussin Elabeh Fahiyah, of the Somali town of Baidoa, smilingly tells of their Africa to America trip, a journey which may be considered to have contributed to their fatigue during the 13-day Washington orientation period that followed.

"FORTY-EIGHT hours traveling, and by jet. What an experience it was!"

In softly accented British English, he tallied the route on his long thin fingers. "Mogdisho, our capital and chief seaport. Then Nairobi. Two hours there. The 45 minutes in Khartoum, Sudan. Then 45 minutes in Rome, then five hours in London. Over the Atlantic to

New York, and finally Washington. We hardly knew what day or time it was when we arrived."

Once settled in Eastern Michigan University, however, more or less at home on one of the dormitories, the young men found adjustment to American life not too difficult. Many of them, the students, carry Madison Ave.-type briefcases, have already made a few friends, been entertained at faculty homes and visited other parts of Michigan.

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