

Victuals and Skiing Restaurant Offers

A Bloomfield Hills restaurant has listed a lunch and night manager. The restaurant offers one day a week, either Saturday or Sunday, to a nearby ski area, where Hasell and his wife, Midge, will give individual instruction. More information on the package deal may be obtained by calling Fox & Friends Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

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Let's shake on that! With sincere appreciation for your friendly patronage this past year, we extend to you our warmest greeting for a New Year filled with overflowing health, happiness and prosperity.

From All the Staff at
ERB-RESTRICK LUMBER CO.
425 S. Eton Rd., Birmingham 803 S. Main, Royal Oak

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Holiday Mistletoe A Parasitic Plant

During your holiday preparations, many of you have hung a sprig of mistletoe over doorway or arch.

Mistletoe is named for two Greek words, "tree" and "white", at once giving a cue to its parasitic habits. Although some 800 species of this family grow in the tropics, only two appear in the United States. The one which I hold in my hand is the American mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens*). It grows high on the branches of trees, both deciduous and coniferous trees.

BEFORE I suspend it from the ceiling of our entrance way, I turn the yellow-green plant by hand. Its thick stems are jointed and much branched. The leathery leaves are fleshy and show very little venation.

The glistening berries are born clustered on jointed spikes. When I crush one of these, I find it is filled with sticky pulp surrounding a hard seed. The berries are relished by birds who carry them from tree to tree. Frequently a bit of the pulp will cling to the bird's bill to be wiped off on the bark where it hardens around the seed as a protection.

WHEN GERMINATION occurs, the plant gets its water supply and mineral salts by sinking its specialized roots into the conductive tissues of the host tree. Unlike plants that are wholly parasitic, it then proceeds to make its own food as does any plant which is anchored to the ground.

Our second variety of mistletoe is a much dwarfed plant (*Arceuthobium pusillum*) which appears in the upper peninsula and the northern counties of the lower peninsula of our own state. Because it is so small and grows high on spruce and tamarac, it is seldom seen by anyone except the botanist.

Its fleshy stems are often less than an inch in length. Its scale-like leaves are closely folded; its flowers petal-less and inconspicuous so that the entire plant looks like a blunt branch growing out of place among the needles of the conifer which is its host.

THE PARASITIC habit where one organism subsists on the bounty of another living organism is a common one among such plants as beach-drops, squaw-root, dodder and certain orchids.

It varies in degree—a completely parasitic plant has no green chlorophyll since this food-making ingredient is no longer needed.

PARASITISM is also employed to a marked degree in the animal kingdom particularly among the insects and worms. Certain wasps stoke their larval cases with spiders which have been paralyzed (but not killed) by a well-placed sting. Their number and rate of consumption is so finely balanced that the larva makes its final meal of the vital organs of the last spider on the day it emerges and flies away.

We may be inclined to look with disfavor upon a parasite which lives at the expense of another life. However, the high degree of specialization of bodily structure which it demands may lead to new evolutionary types. Once more nature is about her business of advancing life's forward march.

AND NOW my best holiday wishes to all who read these lines. And may the spirit of Christmas abide in our hearts long after the mistletoe has faded.

Series Features Japan Today

modern skyscrapers and hotels, Japanese railroads, family life, an evening meal in a typical Japanese home, the slums of Osaka, textile workery, Japan's television, textile and hydro electric dams.

Also shown are the ancient capital of Kyoto, Japanese wrestling, motor boat racing, and a fishing village.

TICKETS MAY be purchased at the box office on the night of the performance or may be reserved by telephoning the Birmingham Community House.

Japan Today" is the color movie to be shown for the Birmingham Branch of the World Adventure Series at the Birmingham Community House at 8 P. M., Jan. 5 and 6. Julien Bryan, New York world traveler and pioneer in the field of documentary films, will personally narrate his film. Bryan shows Tokyo with its

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FRESH BORDEN'S
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