

## Some Hints Here For Happy Hoodooing

Pediatricians at the University of Michigan Medical Center have issued their annual warning to parents of inexperienced 'gobs', 'goobies' and hoodoos to help them through the untanny hazards of Halloween.

Low-flying witches or ground galloping ghosts should positively not carry sharp or pointed instruments, caution the University doctors, or they may wind up hunting a hospital.

**DEMONS OF ALL** types need plenty of visibility. Use burnt cork or cosmetics in preference to masks. And use luminous tape on costumes. This heightens the eeriness of costumes, and helps ward off such dangers as automobiles.

Carry a flashlight if desired, but nothing with open flame such as candles or oil lanterns. Each Halloween hospital repair a number of wizards who become careless with their fire. And, they add, science still has no sure cure for "Poltergeist Dyspepsia." This ghoulish stomach

ache is usually caused by too many trick-or-treat goodies. Moderation helps. But if it persists, it's best to hop on your broom and go see your family doctor.

**THE U O F M** specialists also urge homeowners to keep porch lights on for the guidance of a major and inexperienced spook. The aim, despite a legendary ability to walk through walls, these hoodoos have a knack for tripping over pointed steps and lawn furniture and skinning their ectoplasm.

Parents can take other measures to come through Halloween with a whole hoodoo: Warn youngsters repeatedly against referring into the street; make sure spooks under age eight have an adult to guide them; and, if staging a party at home, don't make it too shrill or you will frighten the souls of the younger gobins.

After all, reason the doctors, they're just like children.

## DOWN TO EARTH

### Season Affords Time For Summer Dreams

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

Your October garden program can take on a relaxed tempo. This is a good time to plan and execute those construction ideas you dreamed about during the summer. Raise a large, free-form, raised flower bed about eight inches high formed by ledger rock or large stones around a tree for a vertical accent. This would give interest to a dull area.

Within this proposed raised bed you must plan on at least two spreading evergreens which will assure interest for the winter months. A large boulder or two would give texture to the total effect.

You could even place groupings of three or five spring bulbs in each unit having only one color and variety of bulb.

**DO NOT OVERLOOK** Siberian Squill and Grape Hyacinth in the composition. Do not plant in tall perennials in this development, planning on anastasia daisies as being about the largest specimen. This is a part of your garden which attracts visitors.

Your choice of all plants will be determined by the light factor. Now, however, I do not suggest a bed over eight inches high. This is because air is needed for the roots of a tree after it is established.

Be sure that the basic dirt is rich, loam, is moist, is in clay. If the setting is right, a portion of a lawn with moss on it will be the ultimate.

**BY THE WAY**, while your sleeves are rolled up and you are working, you might wish to lay an electric cable under the ground and attach it to the base of the tree for dramatizing the setting after dark. If the tree is small and Italian lights (very small and all

one color) would be effective. It is said that people turn green with envy, blue with cold and purple with anger.

Plant in a range color when they are in trouble. Flowers, shrubs, ornamentals, and shrubs trees all flash such danger signals.

**IF ADEQUATE** soil and nutrient control is practiced and leaves turn yellow, it is often a signal that nitrogen is lacking in the soil. Purple tinted leaves often mean phosphorus is lacking. Browning of the leaf edge indicates deficiency in potash.

Correction of the deficiency is easy with an application of a complete fertilizer or by using a series of foliar feedings which place the lacking mineral in the plant quickly. Please remember, the only fertilizer you use now is on your lawn and home metal which is used in the hole of a bulb.

Be careful how much of your fertilizer you use. Remember that the tall canes which catch the snow drifts which will be blown into your yard. I am back to the old fashioned way of hilling up the roses for the winter.

**MARSH HAY** blowing all over the lawn and property is very frustrating to an eager spring gardener. Do not muck up your roses until at least the first week in November. About Thanksgiving Day I get in a panic and race around mucking tender plants all bundled up like a character from Mars and cursing my procrastination.

Your columnist is launching an adventure of being a greenhouse owner. This is the construction time and, in anticipation of the day when each pane of glass is in place, I have been getting up small annuals, taking cuttings of boxwood, ivy, etc. There is a poem in a pot being kept in the dark so that it will form a flower bud. Although the greenhouse will only be 10' x 8', with proper planning it should be a glow with interest, rather cozy, as we go into the winter cycle.

A greenhouse should make a person relaxed, always anticipating tomorrow with a spark of adventure.

## WEEKLY VISIT

### She Answers Calls for Help

By IRMA N. DAVIS

Staff Writer

Need a cat-sitter? A dog sitter? A housekeeper-for lunatics? Just call Mrs. Marguerite Fljux, employment director at the Birmingham Community House.

Since 1956 she has been the "go-between" for area residents and would-be employees. The latter come from as far as Detroit and Pontiac, from as close as the heart of Birmingham.

Each morning, from 8:30 until noon, Mrs. Fljux handles the job applications of about 40 men and women, sending them to local homes where they clean, cook, iron, baby sit, clean houses, do yard work, trim trees—almost any task in and around and outside of the house.

SOME OF THE calls are for a more professional type of help—for those, the employment service has a file of practical and registered nurses or housekeepers and housemen, for instance.

With the exception of nurses, Mrs. Fljux and her assistant, Mrs. Ann Dorman, do not attempt to find highly trained, specialized help.

There are agencies in the area for these and we refer people to them," she said. Many of those seeking employment are at the Community House as early as 7:30, waiting for admission to the employment office in a downstairs room.

hearing her clients push the "panic button." She recalls a harassed father who once called for a woman to stay with the children so that I can go to work."

His wife had walked out on her husband and youngsters, Mrs. Fljux said. She sent out a kindly, mature girl I knew and she worked out fine. She stayed for 10 days,

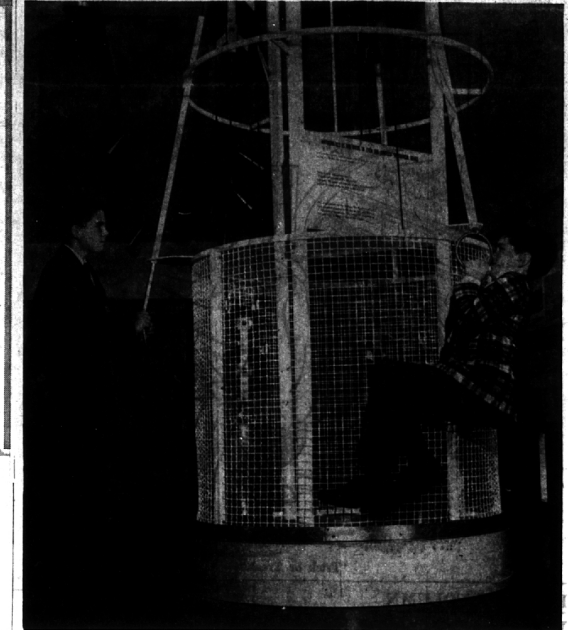
required to provide health cards if the employer requests one. She finds that most calls are for domestic help, preferably with cars.

"Our records on each worker go back two years and we can tell just where she has been sent during that period," noted Mrs. Fljux.

The non-profit service was established by the Community House in the mid-1930's; its single aim is to serve area residents.

A MINIMUM wage is suggested to the prospective employer and he is also asked to fill out a card to indicate satisfaction—or dissatisfaction—with the worker.

"I wish more people would fill them in," commented Mrs. Fljux. She prefers to spend her leisure time with friends, enjoys bridge and especially likes to cook. A widow, she lives on Township, near the Community House, in a 150-year old home, furnished in antiques and "Early Fljux," she says.



Stewart Baker (right), who weighs 92 pounds, proves that with pulleys he can lift a 100-pound weight. Fellow Cranbrook School student Chris Olsen also tries his luck. This is one of the displays in "World of Numbers" which will be a permanent display at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

## 'World of Numbers'

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

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## NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehee

Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

### Corn a Primary Food, Popular for Decoration

Since earliest times corn has been a part of our autumn festivals. Used primarily as a staple food it has also been employed over the years as a decorative motif.

Corn (Zea mays) is grass and its seeds are one of our most valuable cereal grains.

IT HAS THE usual fibrous roots, stems made up of nodes and internodes and the characteristic narrow leaves of this family. However, it differs from the average grass in that it is taller and stronger and its stems are filled with pith which contains the vascular bundles. These in turn are the conductive channels which bring nourishment to the plant from the earth.

CORN DIFFERS from the average grass in having two kinds of flowers. The tassel which tops the plant is the male or staminate bloom, and the ear represents the female or pistillate bloom. Like the ear which extends beyond the cob through hollowing grits to the pollen grain follows the common food uses of corn over a wide range, from corn-on-the-cob through hominy grits to pancakes, corn cereal and pop corn. These are as familiar as they are important to each day's food needs.

FROM CORN are made hundreds of other less familiar products. Included among these are such items as starch, glucose and syrup. This grain is the most economical source of starch for alcohol manufacture in the United States, yielding ten making 90 gallons. The embryo of the grain is rich in oil which is extracted for use in cooking and in the manufacture of soaps and paints.

ASIDE FROM its importance as a grain and forage crop, a great variety of products are made from the plant itself. The stalk is shredded and manufactured into coarse paper while the pith is made into various novelty grades.

THE ORIGIN of corn is frequently linked to the American Indian whose dependence on this grain is well known. However, it is probable that its wild ancestor was a maize-like plant native to Peru or Mexico. Farched corn has been found in the ruins of the

## Autumn Leaf Colors There All the Time

Autumn leaves don't turn yellow and brown in October—they've been that way all along.

We just don't see the underlying leaf colors in spring and summer because they are covered up by the intense green of chlorophyll, explains Stephen H. Spurr, University of Michigan professor of silviculture (forest science).

"CHLOROPHYLL, which makes the tree grow, masks the yellows and browns until the onset of fall cold weather. Frost causes the chlorophyll to disintegrate, allowing other colors to come to the fore so that we can see them. Only the red pigments are actually grown by the leaves in cool, bright autumnal weather.

"These colors are caused by pigments which reach deep into the veins of a part in the growth of trees," Professor Spurr explains. "The colors are part of the growing substance in the leaves—a part which persists after early frost."

PROFESSOR SPURR, who discusses the subject on "Conservation Report," radio series produced for state-wide distribution by the University Broadcasting Service (WUOM), goes on to say that leaves fall off the trees when cold weather arrives because of a change in the leaf anatomy.

"A brackage layer of cells forms at the base of the leaf stem," he explains. "Then the leaf, under impact of rain, snow or wind, will break off at this point and be swept away."

On some trees—notably the white oak—the leaf structure remains more solid, and the leaves often stay on until spring, Professor Spurr concludes.

## STRICTLY FRESH

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ancient Mayan cities whose history dates back to 800 A.D. Our so-called "Indian corn" with its variegated kernels is a "sport" mutant from an earlier species.

LIKE MANY another tropical plant, the range of corn has been greatly extended by cultivation. The important corn belt of the United States now lies in the mid-section of the continent in the production of hybrid seed corn.

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## More women than men own stocks

*To invest or not to invest?*

The answer to this question is not easy, quick, or foolproof. There's a right way and a wrong way. First, ask yourself what you need for living expenses and emergencies. Do you have a surplus after that? This is money you might consider investing. Secondly, talk to a Watling, Lerchen & Co. representative for facts and advice. Tell him what you want your money to do for you. If your goal is income during the year, you'll probably want to know about stocks with a good record of paying dividends. If you want your money to grow for future use, one thing to discuss is stocks with a reasonable chance to increase in value over the years. For greater safety of income and principal you might find your best investment in bonds. There's also a Monthly Investment Plan which lets you invest with as little as \$40 every three months.

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