

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

NATURE NOW By Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Hedgerow Greenery Teems with Wildlife

FROM COLONIAL times to the present, the hedgerow has served to house and protect a most conspicuous feature of our landscape: the oak-hickory-hickory.

The hedgerow served as a natural barrier between fields. It defined farm boundaries and lanes. It grew up over and under a fence which more often than not was made of hand-split rails of hickory, oak or black walnut.

It had its origin in a day when clearing the wilderness was the pioneer's first problem and, therefore, it was an arduous chore. Its zig-zag pattern demanded a wide strip of undisturbed land at a time when land was cheap and one's precious hardwood was a drag on the market.

THEN, AS NOW, the hedgerow was a spontaneous fragment of the forest. It may spring up anywhere in cultivated areas where there is a narrow strip of undisturbed land. It may be not enclosed by a fence, but its role in nature's economy remains the same.

Sometimes, too, the hedgerow makes a ribbon joining the tall roadside trees. It is woven of a variety of plants indigenous to its locality. Here are interlacing seedlings of elm, maple and hickory, threaded with winterberry, hawthorne, red cedar, dogwood and elder, the whole draped with wood-vine, wild grape and hatterock. These are the same plants which in the hedgerow have a second life.

OUR MORE modern flowering plants such as the mustard, parsley and composite families are more at home in disturbed areas, in fields, barnyards and roadsides. They approach the tangle of the hedgerow but they are not of it.

The hedgerow has a second life. It is a place of plant life waiting and ready to leap into the field. It is a place of plant life waiting and ready to leap into the field. It is a place of plant life waiting and ready to leap into the field.

Mackie Announces Assistant Road Location Engineer

The promotion of M. Turk Atman to assistant road location engineer for the Michigan State Highway Department has been announced by State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie.

Atman, 39, joined the Highway Department in 1948 and has been assigned to the Route Location Section since 1958.

He has helped direct route location activities for the Edsel Ford and Chrysler freeways in Detroit, as well as for many other state highways in urban areas.

John F. Morley of Lansing, a supervisor in the State Highway Department's AUTOMOTIVE and Equipment Division, has retired after nearly 20 years of service.

Morley was in charge of maintenance and replacement of heavy equipment operated by the Highway Department throughout the state.



"Annie" Comes to Life

A life-saving technique, mouth-to-mouth breathing, is practiced by young Frank Fehr on a dummy known as "Resuscitor Annie." Assisting Frank is Don Kratt, safety director of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, which sponsors the demonstrations.

STRICTLY FRESH

Advertisement by a young psychiatrist: "Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back."

The pioneers had one advantage over today's tourist—they didn't have to make the trip with 18 pounds of camera equipment around their necks.



One of the reasons that some men are henpecked could be that all they bring home these days is chicken feed.

Old news is no news.

B'ham Family 'Adopts' Girl From Saigon

Earle W. Parcells, Jr., and family, 2844 Northdale Road, Birmingham, have financially "adopted" Phan Thi Lan Diep, a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl, through the Foster Parents' Plan. The Foster Parents will contribute toward the child's support for at least one year.

Diep is one of a refugee family of five little girls who are in desperate need of immediate help. Her father and two of her sisters are ill with tuberculosis. She has had to drop out of school, although she is not yet 10 years old, and go to work to help earn a living. She takes care of a neighbor's child and carries \$2.77 a month. None of the children are in school.

HER PARENTS came from North Viet Nam, where they lived and suffered through the civil war. When they had the opportunity to escape the Communists in 1954 they took refuge in Saigon. The father entered the navy in 1955 and remained there, supporting his family until June, 1960, when he became ill with tuberculosis and was demobilized. He is now unable to work.

The father receives an invalid's allowance of \$248 a month. Diep's sisters are: Van, 13; Mai, 5; Kim, 3; and Hop, 1. Van is now a maid servant and earns \$2.77 a month. Mai and Kim both have tuberculosis and are being treated at an anti-tubercular hospital. Hop is very thin because of malnutrition.

The father stays home and takes care of the young children while the mother is out working. She keeps their few pieces of worn clothing in two suitcases.

THEY LIVE in a tropical hot spot with a palm thatched roof, wood walls and brick floor. It is simply furnished with a camp cot, one divan and a small ladder. They keep their few pieces of worn clothing in two suitcases.

Watch Rear Windows, Says Commissioner

The unattended station wagon with an automatic tailgate window was pointed to as a potential child-killer by State Health Commissioner Dr. Albert E. Heustis.

"The Commissioner's warning followed several recent incidents, one of them fatal, in which children have caught their heads in the automatic window."

"Children should never be left alone in an automobile under any conditions," Dr. Heustis said. "But a car with automatic windows is a baby-sitter. The power of these windows, exerting up to 50 pounds pressure, is enough to strangle a child easily."

"IN STANDARD models, the windows work only when the ignition key is on," Dr. Heustis explained. "Removing the keys eliminates the danger."

"That in most station wagons with automatic tailgate windows, the ignition key is not required. If two or more children are allowed to play in such a car, the window can become a blunt guillotine for one of them."

"A lot of people seem to think of a station wagon as a kind of mobile playpen," the Commissioner commented. "It's a dangerous practice."

"THE EVENTUAL answer," he said, "lies in engineering. But the only answer today is to keep the kids out of the car when it's unattended."

Dr. Dr. Heustis advised, buy the model with handcrank windows.

THE CONTEST ends Dec. 31. Designs submitted in a similar contest last year failed to meet all specifications, but three showed "such inventiveness and insight" that the winners received special prizes of \$1,000 each.



THIS LITTLE MISS knows a good head of lettuce when she sees one. In this case, it's the Forthhook variety and very tasty. The flavorful addition to the salad bowl is known for its crisp leaves and tender yellow centers.

DOWN TO EARTH Vegetables, Perennials Add Variety to Garden

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

With 2-ool cutlines and 2-ool cut lines. In our midst are many gardeners who incorporate vegetables in their group about five feet apart, creating a triangle of three plants which are room for lettuce, parsley, chives, and tomato plants. Generally, when the No. 1 gardener is a man, he is not interested in flowers or lawn only. He likes to "bring home the bacon."

The lettuce hybridizers have been emphasizing the development of a seed which will grow a willow leaf and can be planted at intervals throughout the entire growing season. Forthhook lettuce by Burpee looks good this year. It has a loose head with crisp leaves which blanch to a butter yellow toward the center.

SEVERAL of you have asked for a source of rare perennials in this area. Tucker and Son, on M-17 in Belleville, specializes in many of the new and different varieties of perennials. You would also enjoy an exploratory trip to either the Pontiac or Royal Oak City markets.

Many of those farm women put their children through college with revenue from growing unusual plants. At this period in the cycle of the garden development, I am sure that you are all aware of fills of both the hybrid and the hereditary categories. Remember they can give you your July accent in the garden. As you buy new ones for another year of share clumps with a friend, plant them in groupings of three to give a better impact of color.

ANOTHER GOOD accent for you on your garden calendar for July will be groupings of hydrangeas. They are especially effective if they are against a foundation wall or

\$5,000 Prize Offered For Wheelchair That Can Move Up Stairs

A prize of \$5,000 has been offered for the invention of a stair-climbing wheelchair, according to Commerce Secretary Luther H. Hodges and Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Bond, chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

The President's Committee is cooperating with the National Inventors Council of the Department of Commerce in sponsoring the contest. They hope to find a workable self-propelled wheelchair which will give the handicapped a greater degree of mobility in getting in and out of places of employment.

A booklet describing the contest and the specifications for a stair-climbing wheelchair is available from the National Inventors Council, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.



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Flat Tire Is the Rule Without Fail

The State Highway Department has cleaned up after what was pictured as "a big blowout" gave its maintenance engineers a big headache.

Thousands of roofing nails spilled on an eight-mile stretch of U.S. 131 south of here recently brought traffic to a screeching halt. Some cars had as many as three flat tires.

Armed with brooms, State Police from Petoskey worked most of the night sweeping nails off the highway. A large magnetic crane moved in to finish the job and pick the nails off shoulders of the road.

STATE POLICE suspect the nails were accidentally dropped from a truck delivering materials to a building contractor.

The nails had broad heads, a half-inch to an inch in diameter. Police said most of the nails were standing on end with the point up.

Here's an interesting comparison in prices. A fatal automobile accident represents a loss of \$150,000. The cost of giving a student a course in driver education is \$45. Thus, for an investment of \$45, we may be saving \$150,000.

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