

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Snail Has Thousands Of Relatives on Globe

A snail is numbered among the lowliest of nature's creatures. It is the symbol of a slow and silent life to be crushed underfoot on some forest path or at best to be observed in an idle moment clinging to leaf or garden wall, food but only half extended from its protective shell.

There is no child who has not held such a one in his playful hand, yet even the wisest man knows only a part of what life carries on within the darkness of this small spiral shell.

Snails are only one species of the large family of mollusks whose members, according to the prehistoric seas as in such profession their fossilized remains have had down the thick layers of time—those which we use today.

COUNTLESS NUMBERS of these are now extinct but some 80,000 species remain to populate both fresh and salt water or to make their slow way over the land.

To this family also belong the clams, scallops, coelies and agulids as well as the so-called "cuttle" and "devil" fish of our warm seas. Baby snails hatch from pearl-like eggs laid in damp earth or water. The young fare forth unattended, each carrying on its back an incomplete shell made up of a single spiral turn.

The snail is not an adult until at the beginning of its second year when its shell has been completed with a rounded lip.

THIS HAS BEEN gradually formed by calcareous material secreted from its body. Without this protection for its soft flesh, it would soon dry up in the heat of the sun or fall prey to one of its countless enemies.

It retreats into its shell at the slightest sign of danger and blocks the doorway with a mass of mucus. Most often seen if it is, it is the coiled spiral appearing as lifeless and dead as the earth it so closely resembles.

But in a damp day in the small hours of night, the snail pats forth its snail foot and goes about its business. Its method of locomotion is unique. It lays its own pavement by depositing a film of mucus upon which it makes its slow way, by contracting the muscles of its foot.

The "snail's pace" at which it travels may average 10 feet an hour and is adequate for a snail's business and social life.

AFTER PROTRUDING its foot, the snail extends its head which is equipped with two slender stalks, each furnished with a single eye-like eye. These can be stretched like a piece of rubber to peer around corners or they can be pulled back into the flesh for protection. Underneath these is another pair of shorter tentacles which act as sensory organs. These it uses constantly to test the surface over which it travels.

equipped with an efficient set of saw-like teeth and a round borer by means of which it can do away with a piece of leaf or fruit or make a neat round hole in a fleshy mushroom cap.

Land snails breathe by means of a rudimentary lung. The air enters through a small "breathing hole," located at the joint where the body is joined to the shell. Air is sucked in, bathes the lung cavity and is forced out in a series of contractions which can be observed with a hand-lens.

The snail mates in its third spring and soon lays its eggs. Separate sexes that both male and female belong to the same body, an arrangement not completely understood. It is typical of many primitive organisms.

GUIDED BY a kind of dim awareness the snail makes its way through the long summer. Its primitive body knows life's essential dangers and their fulfillment. When autumn comes, it seals itself within its shell with as many as three successive shells, leaving in each a small air hole. With tiny motions it then buries itself in soft mud or leaf mold and enters into its hibernating sleep.

A snail's lifetime may last through as many as five summers—if it escapes the maw of some small carnivore or the prying hill of a hungry bird. But finally old age lessens its ability to retreat into its shell and on some hot summer noonday the small but formidable shell of soft tissue dries up and is still.

Women Voters Publish Book About B'ham

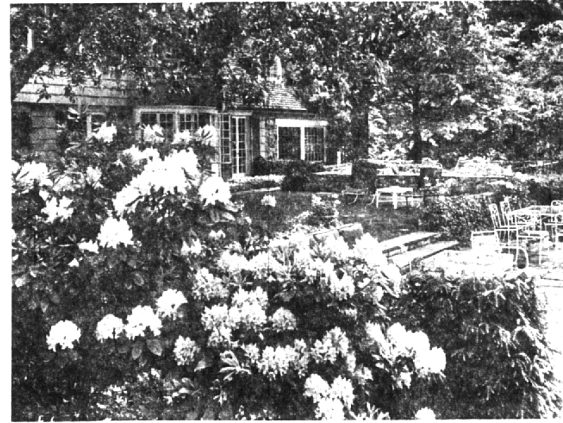
"Know Your Town" is in print again. As most of our town knows, "Know Your Town" is a booklet prepared by the League of Women Voters of Birmingham in the hope that it will answer some of the questions the citizen has about Birmingham and its government.

Besides chapters on local government, the booklet contains a brief history of Birmingham, information on recreation facilities, schools, and the Baldwin Public Library, a map of the city and important Birmingham telephone numbers.

THE BOOKLET was first published in 1938. At that time, 8,000 copies were handed out, one at every door within the city limits, as gifts from the league. To do this, children of the league members and their express wagons were drafted.

At the expense of The Ayer Press, 3,000 copies were printed and distributed by The Birmingham Eccentric, to newcomers in the community, through such organizations as the Welfare Wagon.

The remaining copies were sold until the supply ran out. The demand continued, however, and the league decided it was time for a reprint.



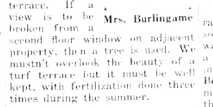
A COLORFUL GARDEN and shady trees add charm to this terrace, so placed that it provides a pleasant view from inside the house and an area for relaxing in leisure hours. Trees should be selected to provide shade where needed and located where they will insure privacy for the family.

DOWN TO EARTH By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Terrace Living Gains in Popularity

Terrace living has become very important of the 1960s for everyone. When autumn comes, it seals itself within its shell with as many as three successive shells, leaving in each a small air hole. With tiny motions it then buries itself in soft mud or leaf mold and enters into its hibernating sleep.

growth being affected by fall neighbors garden during the war and a point is a lipstick on their little "nose."



Mrs. Burlingame

TINTED FLOWERS are interesting to arrange for specific occasions. You begin with white flowers. Shasta daisies are especially good for this project and you use food coloring or commercial dye which you can secure from your local florist.

Reviving flowers can be done in many ways but when you wish to freshen cuttings, violets, geraniums or tuberoses rooted in water, be sure and dunk the flower in water as the petals are very absorbent.

TOMATO PLANTS will not ramble and dilly-dally" are worth a few mesh from the hardware store and form a cylinder with a diameter of approximately 18 inches to keep your plant contained. Be sure the mesh is 6 inches. You may wish to secure the cylinder to the location by sinking a stake on each side into the ground.

GARDEN PILGRIMAGES are an excellent way to help you become better acquainted with plant material which will make your property the prettiest on the block. Coming soon as a tour for the benefit of the Detroit Garden Center. Our local pilgrimage takes place June 16 and 17.

Among the gardens which will be viewed are those of Dr. Werner, the Robert McKees, the Arthur Fuchs, Thomas Wagners, Al Schimpke, Arnold Papp, and the garden of the H.C. Galters.

INCH WORMS have been down my neck this spring and in my shoes. They have done a great deal of damage to our stand of locust and birch trees. This season I was going to be a heroine and protect the birds.

Why don't the inch worms destroy the leaves on our trees at the farm? says our farmer husband.

The debate goes around and around as gardeners talk about the merits of tree spraying.

FOLIAR FEEDING time is right now. In late your fertilizer and apply with a sprinking can or a loose connection for immediate, positive effects with your flowers and leaves of plants. Remember that you must stop this practice by Aug. 15 to avoid too profuse growth.

20th Century Roads Show Improvement

Hi-techians of the future will probably look back on the first half of the 20th century as one of the most astounding periods of all history of roads.

This was the era when the automobile replaced the horse as man's best form of personal transportation.

In 1905, there were only 3,000 cars in Michigan. And they had to stick pretty close to home because of the condition of the roads. There were 6,000 miles of public roads in the state then, but 60,000 miles of them were officially designated as being made of sand or clay.

TODAY, there are three and one-half million cars in Michigan, one for every two and two-thirds persons. And there are more than 115,000 miles of public roads.

Life 'on the Go' Appeals To Birmingham Family

These little suitcases and a "mother and daddy suitcase" are always out and ready to go places at the Robert A. Rick home at 1122 Emmont, Birmingham.

Next week attractive Joy Rick will pack for Randy, 6, Jennifer, 3, and Jeffrey, 7 months. Then the family will move again.

Their nomadic existence goes along with Bob Rick's job and they love it. He's director of Camp Ohyesa, a Detroit metropolitan YMCA camp, 35 miles northwest of Birmingham in the Holly-Fenton Mill-ford area.

WHEN THE RICKS move next week from their home to Camp Ohyesa, they'll occupy their usual summer home, a cabin amid 200 wooded acres surrounding Fish Lake.

Randy and Jennifer will play this summer with the children of other members of Camp Ohyesa's staff of 15 counselors, cooks and other helpers.

The whole Rick family will at least enjoy campfire evenings and other night programs for the 3 to 10-year-old Ohyesa campers.

RIK'S STAFF serves over 500 meals a day. He must oversee campcraft, instruction, and recreational and spiritual programs for his 250 active young charges.

STRICTLY FRESH History has shown that the high speed of living has something to do with its high costs.

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1st

WE DIDN'T JUST HOP ON THE BANDWAGON (WE'RE DRIVING IT!)

THREE YEARS ago he joined the Detroit Metropolitan YMCA as a camp executive after two years as an officer in the Army Artillery.

His job with Camp Ohyesa is a year round one. School groups come for a winter week of camping. Church youth groups spend week ends there.

So when fall comes, the Rick's will move back to Birmingham in time for Randy to start school. And Dad will commute between the YMCA's Detroit headquarters, the camp and home.

But the suitcases won't go into the attic. Every weekend, Mrs. Rick will pack them up and the family will stay at the camp while Bob Rick oversees activities there.

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The Yardener

Knock, Knock
When transplanting plants from house pots, hold the pot upside down and tap gently on the edge of a post. Do not pull. This will indicate the costs of color processing as compared with black and white.

State Police Plan Use of Color Prints

The Michigan State Police have begun a pilot study of the use of color prints to assist in criminal identification and the investigation of crimes of violence. Commissioner Joseph A. Childs reports.

Ten of the department's 51 posts have been selected for the tests. They are East Lansing, Irons, Detroit, Bay City, Flint, Jackson, Grand Haven, Newaygo, Traverse City and Newberry.

The study will be limited to mug shots or close-ups of criminal subjects and to victims of violent crime and assault where physical injury is involved.

FOR IDENTIFICATION purposes and court cases, color prints more truly reveal than do black and white the general complexion features, scars, skin defects, and color of hair and eyes and the severity and type of physical injury.

The study is being conducted to determine whether this advantage in police work has sufficient value to be continued. If it is, extension of the use of color prints to all posts will be considered. The study also will indicate the costs of color processing as compared with black and white.