

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

### Trillium Studs Woods As May Makes Debut

There comes a day in late May when the tide of wild flower bloom reaches its height. For this brief hour of color and beauty, the forest isles have waited long and silently.

The life-giving sun filters through the overhanging branches of variegated green when the half-opened leaves tremble on their stems. Soon summer will close the canopy and the forest floor will grow dim, its bloom ended for another season.

BUT NOW as we wander briefly in the spring woods, our feet touch the carpet of wild flowers. Here, amidst the gentle curve of leaf and bud and petal, each of us finds his own preferences.

Many will select the trillium as the most beautiful of them all. When Dr. Moench, curator of the New York Botanical Garden, was preparing the manuscript for his recent book "American Wild Flowers," he sent a questionnaire to 1,200 naturalists asking them to list their favorites. The trilliums ranked high among the 1,080 plants nominated.

AS PLANTS GO, the trillium family is a small one; only four genera and 35 species throughout the world.

It belongs to the larger order of the lilies, although it departs from their habit of parallel veining to arrange its own netted leaves in a single whorl on the stem.

The trillium takes its scientific name from its arrangement of leaves, sepals and petals in groups of three; its common name "wake-robin" from its early appearance in springtime.

THE ERECT single-stemmed plants come up through last year's leaf mold from short tussock rootstocks or rhizomes.

Of the several species within our range the red variety (trillium erectum) appears first, in late April or early May. Its ill-smelling flowers are dark maroon or wine colored and are pollinated by carrion-loving flies which are attracted by the odor and raw-meat color of the bloom.

This species is fast disappearing.

from the rich hummocks of our shady lowlands where it grows in the company of marsh marigold, skunk cabbage and our swamp loving ferns.

MANY BOTANISTS prefer the species trillium undulatum to all others. Its common name, "painted trillium," suggests the pink or rose "V" which appears at the base of each narrow white petal. This variety is more common east and north of our range and southward in the coastal mountains.

I first learned to know the nodding trillium (species cernuum) in the mixed pine and hardwood forest on the north shore of Higgins Lake. Here it was the only representative of its family.

THE SMALL WHITE flowers with their pollen-laden stamens and strongly recurved petals keep well hidden under their whorl of leaves, hence their common name. I have not found this species growing in the Detroit area.

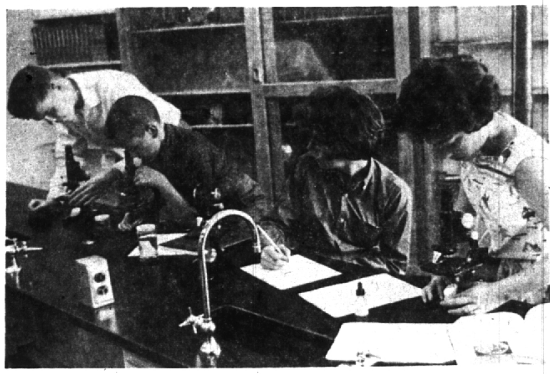
But to see the trillium at its best, one must wander some late afternoon in our mixed hardwood forests, where the largest and most abundant species—grandiflorum, stars the ravines and gentle slopes.

There is no lovelier sight in all the May woods than a waving hillside of these pure white blooms. Before the petals within they turn pink and finally rose color.

ALL VARIETIES of trillium are on the list of protected plants of our state. However, no spring comes and goes without my seeing at least one bunch of these wild flowers leaving the woods in a tightly clutched band. All too frequently their beauty never reaches the confines of a vase but is brushed aside from a car seat in a wilted heap.

Because the flower stem is so short, the careless picker breaks off the entire plant, thus destroying the plant. And so the trillium pays for its beauty at the hands of the careless picker.

It needs your protection and mine, if it is to survive in our parks and woodlots for the enjoyment of future generations.



SCIENCE HAS become a big part of the elementary scholastic program at City-Country School of Bloomfield Hills. Here four students (from left) Ken Webster, Oxford, Mich., Larry Blumberg, Huntington Woods, Janis Kembel, Detroit, and Carol Moses,

West Bloomfield, examine particles through new microscopes. A new \$12,000 science laboratory just has been completed and will be used this fall in a modern science curriculum.

## City-Country Grade School Initiates Unique Science Lab

by LARRY WROBLEWSKI, Staff Writer

Keeping abreast with the rapid scientific explosion in the United States, City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills has initiated a unique science program.

The elementary school for gifted children is utilizing a newly completed science laboratory. The \$12,000 lab features modern scientific equipment.

"IT'S CERTAINLY very unusual for an elementary school to have a science laboratory," explained George A. Bauer, 45-year-old headmaster and founder of the school. "This entire program is designed to strengthen scientific education."

The lab can handle a class of 20 students with each child having his own water, gas and electrical apparatus. The lab is equipped with eight high powered microscopes and demonstration desks.

"The funds were obtained through the Defense Education Act of 1958," said Bauer.

The students are very excited with the laboratory and make good use of it.

Richard Youngs, 25, heads the science division of the correlated science-studies-math-English department, which has been operating for two years.

"Beginning in the fall, the students will be exposed to different programs," remarked Youngs. "The program will be concentrated in the fifth through eighth grades, one fifth grader will be taught one set of scientific concepts and in the following year they will be taught a new set of concepts. The seventh and eighth graders will be acquainted with the simple fundamentals of chemistry—organic and inorganic."

YOUNG SAID the purpose of the course is to "develop a basic understanding in science so when the students graduate and go to other high schools they will be fully indoctrinated with the tools of science."

The youthful instructor stressed the following: "The emphasis, we hope, will be for the benefit of the student now and in later years when they will be consumers. They will be able to evaluate in a scientific way political and advertising claims. We aren't solely devoted to producing scientists."

The basic concepts stressed in the course include weight, distance, time, knowledge of atomic structure, difference in elements, formation of compounds, physical laws, inertia of matter, freezing and boiling temperatures and their effects on matter.

Youngs pointed out that the four instructors in the combined department have or are seeking master's degrees. Thomas Patti,

### U. of M. Schedules Summer Course

A unique educational effort will go into its tenth year this summer when The University of Michigan again offers its special program for high school journalism students and advisers.

On June 25 some 15 journalism advisers will begin a six-week workshop-seminar designed to help improve their teaching and advisory work in connection with high school publications.

In addition, some 20 youngsters will come to the U-M for each of four, two-week sessions designed to give them a background for the practice in producing high school publications. Many of them will be sent here by editors and publishers of Michigan newspapers.

THE COMBINED program is sponsored by the U-M Department of Journalism and the Summer Session. Some 1,000 persons have participated in the program since its initiation in 1953.

John V. Field, associate professor of journalism, states that the advisers will have both the opportunity to learn under professional

math teacher and Richard Halsey, social studies, have master's degrees. Phoebe Chao, English instructor, is working on her master's.

From 1941 to 1955 City and Country was a private school, and in 1956, it became a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and development of children with exceptional abilities.

### DOWN TO EARTH

## Tulips Will Provide Colorful Combination

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Tulips are in their full glory this time of year. As you ride around town, take note of those color combinations you prefer and file a comment away in your garden folder.

Years of observation have shown me that orange colored tulips have a way of making all other colors important when they are nearby, especially if you select early flowering varieties which will be in flower when the daffodils are out.

MANY REMBRANT or "broken" tulips are sold. These bulbs are infected with a virus disease that gives the flower a striped, mottled and mottled effect. Virus from these diseased bulbs will infect healthy tulips and lilies which are planted close to them.

Alas, I have always admired those mottled bulbs. Diseased bulbs get smaller every year and die in 3 to 5 years.

CARE OF BULBS after flowering is important. Some people believe that you should leave them in their growing location until they have thoroughly dry leaves. When your bulbs become crowded, it is time to dig, store and replant them later. After the leaves die, dig one of the bulbs up and if the bulb root is light brown it is ready to be stored.

Keep the bulbs out of direct sunlight, spread out on trays or newspaper and allow them to dry in an airy, shaded spot.

BE SURE not to leave any soil on the bulbs during storage. Place them in a cool, dimly-lighted area and look at them frequently to see that they aren't rotted or diseased. You may replant them in the fall.

Around here we like to wait until the beginning of November when all of the field mice are

THE SCHOOL'S 300 children

represent the greater Detroit area, with a cross section of social, racial and economic backgrounds.

Children are selected on the basis of a minimum IQ of 130 and or talent in sciences, music, drama and art. The average IQ of the students, who range from elementary through junior high school grades, is 146.

settled in their "winter apartment."

TOMATO PLANTS are often started around the middle of April for outdoor gardening.

Mrs. Charles Marsh of Cranbrook Road has an excellent practice. She likes to start her seeds in cottage cheese cartons. When it is time to take the plant outdoors, she knocks out the bottom and plants the carton, allowing it to rim to extend above the earth to keep the cut worms away from her plant.

Mrs. Marsh calls herself a farmer as she is a devotee of the earth and can be seen these days very busy either in her greenhouse or in her garden. She always has interesting ways to handle planting problems.

CHERRY TOMATOES are often served as appetizers or in salads and never fail to result in compliments from guests. Sunset Magazine suggests that we secure a seven-inch pot and have a friend with a drill space three holes in the collar of the pot. It can then become a hanging pot by dismembering a coat hanger to use to hang it up in a sunny location.

Now plant in a cherry tomato and as it grows and tumbles over the side of the pot it will become a real conversation piece with its bright red fruit as flowers.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY has developed a growth-regulator called C C C (2-chloroethyl trimethyl ammonium chloride) which will increase the number of shoots and the plants will grow short and stocky. Can't you see the possibilities of this chemical for the home gardener?

Around here we like to wait until the beginning of November when all of the field mice are

supervision and, because of the presence of the students, to instruct in the production of student publications.

Also, since the student sessions will be closely allied with the workshop, students will have the chance for an unusual personal relationship with advisers. An experienced high school teacher will serve on the teaching staff with members of the U-M summer faculty in journalism, Field says.

From 1946 through 1960 the American steel industry had total income of \$168.9 billion. Of this, only \$5.3 billion—about three percent—went to stockholders as a return on their investment. Another \$5.1 billion was reinvested in the business, to keep the steel industry up to date and provide jobs for steelworkers.

The art of gardening is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

—Alfred North Whitehead.

Interest in a proposed new zoning ordinance ran high in Bloomfield Township as evidenced by this group, part of more than 200 citizens who attended a public hearing Monday evening on the proposal. Township

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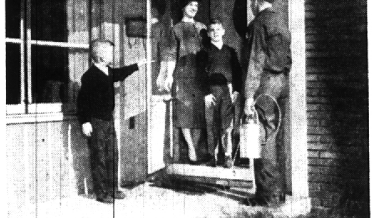
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