

Indian Summer Was the Time To Stock Winter Provisions

There comes a time late in our midwestern autumn when there falls upon the land a kind of hush—a pause in the sure round of the seasons turning. We call it Indian summer.

For it was the Indian who named it. By early-November the squaw had harvested the wild rice, pushing her canoes into the shallow water of northern marshes. The precious store of corn hung in bunches drying in the sun, its husks stripped backwards from the husk, and a store of nuts and berries was dried and put away in hand woven baskets.

IT WAS TIME now to round up the game, provision against the deadly threat of winter. So the tall prairie grass was set afire and the great central plains shook with the thud of thundering hoofs driven to the slaughter. Dense clouds of smoke filled the sky and spread a purple haze over the horizon.

In some such fashion the first Indian summer came to our land. Long before the red man learned to plant his corn patch, he depended greatly upon wild foods which he gathered from the streams, fields and woods. He divided the year into two periods: the "White Season" when plants hid in the snow-covered ground and the game moved southward and the "Green Season" when the plants came forth and the bison roamed the prairie.

SOME NATURAL foods were ready to eat before the snow had left the ground. Among the earliest of these were the haws of the wild rose which are bitter in the autumn but once frozen and thawed are sweet and palatable.

Tree bark does not sound like food but the red man ate the inner cambium or soft layer of certain species. Through this the sap rises in spring making it tasty and nourishing. First it was stewed, then it was shaped into cakes and baked. Boiled with stinging meek it took the place of bread.

THE INDIANS store of sugar came from boiled maple sap which was collected in birch bark baskets, poured into a larger container and evaporated by throwing hot stones into the sweet liquid. Later in the season much prized wild honey was gathered from the bee's store in hollow trees and stumps. Early in the summer the Indians ate green pine cones which were full of sugar and oil before they became solidified into resin. Roasted, these were to an Indian child what a lollipop is to the city dweller.

STRICTLY FRESH

The older a man gets, the further he had to walk to school as a boy.

It is said that most kittens are 99 and 44 one-hundredth's per cent purr.



Some say if smart aleck children were made to smart in the right places, it would cure the problem.

Learning Means Vary Among Gifted Children

The gifted child finds opportunities to learn even when his environment seems totally against him, says Warren A. Ketcham, professor of education at The University of Michigan.

Ketcham says the gifted child's superior achievement is due primarily to his ability to make the maximum use of his opportunities to learn.

"Research shows these children have an insatiable hunger for knowledge, and an almost mysterious way of learning. They frequently learn before they are taught."

The "gifted" make up the brightest two per cent of children, Ketcham explains.

THE ACHIEVEMENT of these children is not adversely affected unless their entire environment—home, school and community—is so seriously limited. In some cases the school compensates for the home, but in an equal number of cases the home successfully compensates for what the school does not provide.

In autumn, the ripened pine seeds were eaten as we eat nuts. Those of the piñon pine are so used by our present day Indians of the west.

A BREW made from the leaves of the Canadian hemlock and the Douglas fir became a substitute for tea and coffee and a lemon tasting drink was made from the seed-heads of staghorn sumac.

The red man also ate many wild leaves, roots and root-stalks. Among these were the leaves of skunk cabbage, pokeberry and marsh marigold. The first of these loses its rank odor when boiled. Lamb's quarters, dandelion and chickweed were other pot herbs.

The rootstalks and new shoots of ferns were also a source of "greenery" as were the stalks of milkweed. Other edible rootstalks and

roots were those of Jack-in-the-pulpit, cat-tail, cucumber root, Solomonic's seal, wild parsnip and other present day Indians of the west.

In the autumn the Indian harvested a long list of berries many of which we still prize today. There are now nuts were a rich source of oil, starch and sugar.

THESE ARE only a few of our native foods and they are not without their danger. Water hemlock is as deadly a poison as its wild relative and hemlock which Socrates drank. Mushrooms, a favorite Indian food, killed many a brave. The knowledge of which foods are edible and how they were to be prepared was hard-won. Using the costly trial and error method, certainly came only through centuries of use.



Space Ride

Detroit will have a new tourist attraction when Ford Motor Company's simulated "Adventures in Space" ride is introduced at the Seattle World's Fair in the center court of the Ford Rotunda in Dearborn and is opened to the public early next

year. The 100-passenger spacecraft will "transport" passengers past an outer space display featuring planets, galaxies and man-made satellites as they might appear from hundreds of miles above the earth.

DOWN TO EARTH

Bulb Competition Benefits Gardener

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

The hybridizers of our Spring bulbs are always aiming to introduce a continual array of new sizes and colors of flowers to spur their market—and you and I are the winners of this competition.

Geranium, is an outstanding narcissus with its paper-white petals and golden orange cup.

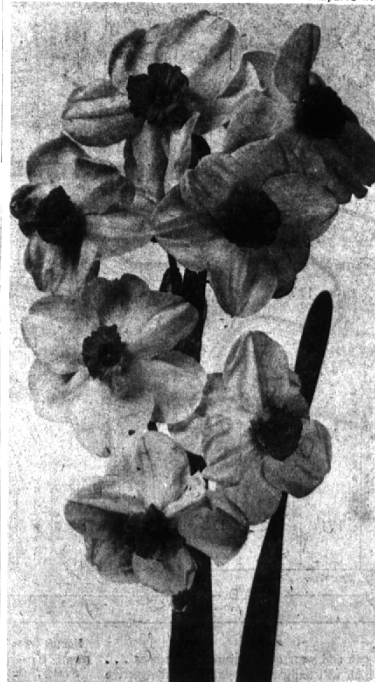
We like it because there are three to five flowers on each stem. It is very effective when forced the middle of February.

ANOTHER GEM is the vivid red Fusilier tulip. This plant will have at least three flowers on a stem with the coloring of the Emperor but will weather better because the tulip is only about eight inches high. When you are shopping for bulbs you might as well get the varieties which will give you a maximum show for the right price.

The waterily tulip (Kaufmanniana) is poky, showing itself very early. It gives the best effect near an exit or a choice garden which is viewed from a nearby window. This category generally has in-

corporated in it white, red and yellow in varying degrees dependent upon the selection you make from years ago, you have a clump which seems to be getting worse of this busy world, get rid of it.

THERE IS a great deal of conversation about: "Oh, my, I must year. The benefit it gives you aside from the exercise of bending from Here is one columnist's opinion, the middle could be compared with



Geranium, top narcissus among the Poetaz Hybrids, has broad paper-white petals of great substance, and a golden orange cup, with color deepening towards the edges. Also known as bunch-flowered narcissi, the Poetaz Hybrids bear several flowers, and Geranium normally bears heads of three to five flowers on strong stems. Geranium is a late-flowering variety and a sturdy, vigorous grower and very effective when planted as a border flower. It may be forced from the middle of February on.

The Birmingham Eclectic Features

YMCA Camp Season Ends

Mahn-Goh-Tah-See YMCA Camp enjoyed one of the most successful seasons during the past summer. Not only was the camp run at almost peak enrollment throughout the eight week camp season, but improvements made to the camp property during the past summer materially added to the camp facilities.

THE CAMP, which has been in operation for over thirty years, is managed and operated by an independent board of directors but has long been popularly known as "the Oakland County YMCA Camp." Its camping facilities are at Hale, Michigan.

Board members also heard Cripps report that two new phases of the camp program had proved worthwhile. Long convinced that a separate and distinct program for older boys in their mid teens was needed, the board added one to the camp schedule last year and, according to Cripps, it has now proven so popular that it ran during the 1962 season at peak enrollment.

FEATURED in the program are "outpost camping" and camping trips away from the camp property.

The camp recently adopted a policy of making the camp available for use by school, church and other groups during the time the camp proper is not in session.

Birmingham men continue to play an increasingly important part in the direction of the camp as officers and members of the board of directors.

The board's annual election saw last year's president, Dr. Fred Jeffers of Birmingham, replaced by Dean G. Beier, also of Birmingham.

Five Birmingham men were elected as members of the board for three year terms — George Woods, Bruce Randall, Carl Holden, Don Malloure and Walter Ruffer.

OTHER OFFICERS who will serve with Beier during the coming year are Ben R. Hawkins of Pontiac, vice-president, John R. Faulkner of Franklin, secretary, and Adolph Magnus of Bloomfield Hills, treasurer.

Directors who were reappointed to the board for three year terms included Beier, Magnus, Donald Tracy and Dr. Ralph Wigent.

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Otterbein College Resident to Attend Annual Meeting

Dr. Homer B. Kline, 865 Tottenham Road, Birmingham, a member of the Otterbein College Board of Trustees, is expected to be in Westerville, O., November 9-10 for the annual meeting of the board of trustees.

Dr. Kline, a graduate of Otterbein in the class of 1915, is an honorary member of the Board.

Dr. Harold L. Boda, Dayton, is chairman of the board, while L. Willis Steek of Westerville is vice chairman.

Many important items concerning the college are on the agenda for the meeting according to Dr. Lynn W. Turner, Otterbein president.