The Birmingham Eccentric
Features

IN HOLLAND'S tulip fields, the weather forecast for months has been: continuing cold. The coldest spring and summer in generations has postponed harvesting of flower bulbs as much as three weeks. As a result, bulb deliveries will be late this fall. To compensate, the unusually cold weather has produced the best crop in many years.

DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

U.S. Bulb Shipment Delayed

Most of the bulbs which are imported from Holland are delivered at Detroit by boat. Due to the unusually cold spring and summer in Europe there will be at least a three week delay in deliveries.

So in a later column you will receive instructions as to bulb selection. Do not buy too early and plant immediately.

Remember the rodents like the treat of bulb fare.

A few years ago it was a pleasure to visit Mr. C. P. Feerikx, president of the bulb growers, in Hillegom, Holland in the center of the bulb industry. We drove down a narrow road which was elevated like a dyke with barbed wire on each side to protect the treasured crop and saw where the bulbs were harvested.

IT WAS AUGUST and of course the acres were empty but the soil was rich black like the soil of our Michigan peppermint farms and "of course we consider cow manure best," said my guide.

We returned to the large warehouses where bulbs were being dried on wire although the first shipments had already left by boat for America.

It was in these warehouses where the same man hid his sons for two years during their occupation. This was repeated all over Holland as the people protected their teen-age children.

THIS WEEK YOU must begin to woo your feathered friends or you will be the friend who will telephone me in January and say: "How can I attract the birds?" Have you a bird bath for them?

Begin to harvest the seeds on wild flowers and weeds as you stroll around your neighborhood. Save the seeds of fruits. This is the time to let the birds know that you are interested in them.

If you want some fun secure a record with bird calls and play your recorder out in your garden. I have even done this in January and it surely stirs up the bird world.

GUESS I HAVE told you before not to delay another day making cuttings of impatients for beautiful winter potted plants. Coleus can be used in the same way. I am potting up ageratum and some of my annuals which have overgrown themselves for the greenhouse. What a glorious sight of color they will provide later.

Mrs. Burlingame

Those who are addicts for drying of flowers and foliage have everybody bustling to pick their best specimens to cure for later arrangements. The best advice you can receive will be from the book: "Dried Flowers With A Fresh Look," Eleanor Bolton, Van Nostrand. It should be on every fanciers shelf.

THE SOCIETY of American Florists suggests that houseplants be brought in immediately before artificial heat is turned on. They feel that they can adjust easier to their new setting this way. Plants should be sprayed with an insecticide in the garage first.

The top soil on the pot should be removed because this soil has been leached. Replace this margin of removed soil with the best you can collect. This is a good time to toss out the weak sisters.

Isn't this story interesting? The bombsites of London have disappeared but in their place have appeared thousands of buddleia plants. There we have a plant, a native of west China, swaying in all of its glory with its long branches of purple spikes.

Twenty years ago, the average hat size for men was 6⅞. These days it's 7⅛ plus.

Here's Way to Make Stories Come to Life

A child's favorite storybook characters can "come to life" and become part of the youngster's room decor. Here's what you can do:

Trace outline of an illustration in a book. Enlarge it by means of a grid system to size you want for a wall silhouette.

Now transfer the outline with carbon paper to a piece of wood and cut the shape on a jig saw or a similar tool.

Then you color the plaque, remembering first that there should be a prime coat of paint. The finished plaque may be hung on the wall or inserted in a grooved wooden stand for a place on the child's dresser.

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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Beautiful Butterflies Plentiful

In any summer walk afield the nature lover will see butterflies, those colorful denizens of the air. Also present and also belonging to the class Lepidoptera are a yet larger group, the moths.

Sometimes beneficial and sometimes destructive, these two families are the most attractive and best known of the insect hoards. About 7,000 species have been named in North America.

Mrs. Frehse

Their beautiful colors are resident in overlapping scales fitted into a kind of notch in the membranous wings. If pressed between two sheets of waxed paper these scales are detached forming an exact replica of the insect wings. Sometimes the color is not present in the scales themselves but is made by refracted light.

THE MOUTH parts of adults in both groups are among the most highly specialized of all insects. They are modified into a tube which coils like a spring when not in use for sucking nectar.

Butterflies and moths pass through four stages of development: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (crysalid or cocoon) and adult. They are frequently nourished by flower nectar and in feeding transfer pollen from one plant to another.

A few like the cabbage butterfly are destructive. The caterpillars of moths are also generally destructive to plants. The larvae found in fruits, in ears of sweet corn and the damaging cotton weavel are examples.

BUTTERFLIES fly mostly during the daylight hours while moths are usually nocturnal. Another difference is in the feelers or antennae. The former are club-shaped while the latter are feathery. Butterflies usually have thinner bodies that moths. The wings of butterflies stand straight up when at rest while those of moths are spread out flat.

Butterfly eggs are laid singly and are unprotected while moth eggs are laid in groups and are covered with a protective coat of hair and scales from the mother's body.

The butterfly encases itself in a crysalid while the moth spins a silken cocoon. The crysalid is usually hung head down from the food plant upon which the eggs are laid. A cocoon may be fastened to a board or leaf or it may burrow into the ground or lie half-hidden in leaf litter.

Some butterflies and moths winter as pupae; some emerge in a short time.

MOST BUTTERFLIES live only a few months long enough to mate and lay their eggs. A few like the mourning cloak hiberate under dead bark or leaves.

The monarch spends the cold winter months in places as far distant as California. Most moths are so short-lived that they do not feed as adults, living only a few days to complete their life cycle.

Most butterflies crysalids erupt after a few weeks while the cocoons of moths usually lie dormant over winter.

IT IS WELL to remember that the pupal or caterpillar stage is the destructive one in both groups. In this stage they have chewing mouth parts and are among the world's greatest pests.

Almost every species has one or more particular plants upon which the eggs are laid and which handily furnish food for the larvae.

Do not confuse these larvae with worms for that which is once a worm is always a worm. The difference between the two is that worms have no appendages while caterpillars do. They use these to move and to cling to their plant hosts.

Moths and butterflies have always had a special appeal to young students. Those who know say that a collection of these beautiful creatures frequently serves as a gateway to a life spent in the interests of science.

Heaters for Cold House Corners

Women aren't the only family members who can benefit from a hair dryer. Hand models with or without hood are ideal for children after shampoos and are often used by men following their morning shower and shampoo.

Portable electric heaters help protect against colds by providing a ready source of quick heat in chilly parts of the house. A portable electric heater efficiently warms such areas as basement laundry rooms, work shops, cool bathrooms, dens, and attics or playrooms that are inadequately heated.

There are 17 television cameras on The University of Michigan campus for instructional purposes.

Army Recruiter Announces Wide Training Choice

SFC Robert Brotemarkle, local Army Recruiter has announced the following assignments will be available to personnel desiring to enlist during the month of September.

All enlistments are for a three year period and persons who qualify may choose one of the following fields: Radio Code, Airborne, Infantry, United States Army Europe, Combat Engineers, Armor, Field Artillery, Radio and Carrier Repair, Field Communications, Telephone Outside Plant Maintenance.

AMMUNITION, Utilities, Auxiliary Services, Supply Handling, Automotive Maintenance, Motor Transportation, Administrative, Communications Center Operations, General Supply, Parts Supply, Medical Care and Treatment, Cooking, and Military Police.

In addition to the above personnel may enlist for one of the following overseas areas of their choice. United States Army Europe, United States Army Far East, Alaska and Hawaii.

TEEZERS

Fill in the word squares. The letters in the heavy squares form an Anagram, the solution of which is the TV TEEZER Personality of the Week.

ANSWERS: LINAY 2 BATON 3. DABBLE (ABBY DALTON)

League of Women Voters Week Set

Governor John B. Swainson has proclaimed the week of Sept. 9 as League of Woman Voters Week throughout Michigan.

The West Bloomfield League of Woman Voters will celebrate their League Day with a Community Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the West Bloomfield Library on Orchard Lake Road.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and be followed by a pot-luck luncheon. All area women of voting age who are interested in state, local, and national government are invited to attend this first fall meeting.

A paper bag tied around a lighting fixture will protect it from being spattered when a ceiling is painted.

STRICTLY FRESH

Some say that the intelligent learn by other's mistakes while fools learn by their own.

• • •

Some cigarette lighters would work better if they

took their feet off the desk.

• • •

Remember that there are five wheels to a car: the four under you and the one you are steering.

• • •

There ought to be a new song titled: "What a difference a PAY makes."

The largest bell in The University of Michigan's Burton Tower weighs more than 12 tons.

Simply spin your dial to MIdwest 4-1100 and a professionally-trained ad-visor will help you prepare your message.

Carpeting KO's 'Jet Age' Sounds in Modern Homes

The home building industry has made great advances in recent years in developing new designs and materials to solve one of the more serious problems of modern-day living—noise control.

Many new products for use on ceilings, walls and frameworks have been created to absorb the ever-increasing volume of noise in this "hi-fi" and "jet age."

Today, however, home buyers are discovering that carpet — a product that has been around for centuries — is one of the most efficient sound-conditioning products there is.

THROUGH CARPET'S ability to make a room "quieter" was accepted in the past, the full extent of its noise reduction properties were never realized until they were measured by scientific research conducted at Columbia University's Acoustical Laboratory and the U.S. Bureau of Standards.

These studies established that carpet has a "noise reduction coefficient" averaging .55. In everyday language this means that the soft, porous yarns in the carpet's pile can swallow more than 50 per cent of the airborne noise in a room.

THIS EFFICIENCY is on a par with many of the specialized acoustical products used solely for sound-conditioning.

The laboratory research also proved that carpet is the only "acoustical product" that can effectively reduce floor impact sounds—footsteps, dropped objects, furniture scraping, etc.

Its ability in this respect was established as also being superior to any other flooring material.

THESE LABORATORY findings were further substantiated by acoustical research conducted in an "actual use" situation—at a senior high school in upstate New York which has classrooms and corridors that are carpeted.

As a result of these studies, a number of leading architects have included carpets as a basic part of the sound-conditioning design of many new office buildings, schools and other structures.

HERE'S A "PATTERN" for people who don't like pattern." This cut-and-looped pile carpet has a multi-tone effect made up of six or seven closely-related hues — a texture-color combination that is both practical and decorative underfoot.

Spanking Clean

To improve the appearance of a wool sweater, wash it, and while it's still damp, brush it with a hair brush. This will remove balls of fuzz that often form.

One way to prevent navy blue or black trousers from becoming shiny is to use a pressing cloth that has been dampened with a solution of one teaspoon of blueing in a pint of water.

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