

A Guide to Florida Garden Spots

Way up here in Michigan we are beginning to receive the annual round of letters from Florida: "Wish you were here." Unless you are a ski enthusiast many of you will eventually succumb to the beckoning finger and head for Florida. May I point out to you a few spots which will enrich your trip.

On U. S. Highway 41 at White Springs, Fla. is Stephen Foster's Old South. It is developed and maintained by the state of Florida and is free to visit.

In this northern Florida spot of 243 acres you will see a carillon tower which presents concerts each day. Nearby is the Foster museum designed to represent an antebellum mansion with beautiful furnishings and nine animated dioramas depicting the life of Stephen Foster.

ON THE SWANEE River close by is a 30-passenger riverboat which offers rides to visitors. There is a Conestoga wagon train modeled after the pioneer schooners which goes throughout the park. Family groups are welcomed and there are ample places for picnics.

If you wish to stop at a glamorous spot consider taking the plane out of Palm Beach and visit the Grand Bahamas Club on Grand Bahama Island, only 65 miles off the shore. Planes from other nearby airports also stop there.

The Grand Bahamas is an English colony. Fishing is a prime attraction, there. Reservations should be made before hand through a travel agent.

Mrs. Burlingame The sunken gardens of St. Petersburg are very worthwhile with five acres of exotic plants. This could be described as a photographer's heaven.

One of the finest spots you can make in Florida is at the Busch Gardens in Tampa. It is free besides offering a delightful drink to quench your thirst. Here on 15 acres you can see 500 tropical birds of rare, bright plumage, with purples, oranges, reds, pinks, greens and blues. Four of the acres have interesting wild animals. Each visitor can be a child again enjoying the wonders of nature in an exotic setting.

AT CLEARWATER on Route 593, you will want to stop at the Kapok Tree Inn where you can not only enjoy fine food but revel in the beauty of their immense kapok tree which provides a canopy of 200 feet bearing flame-colored blossoms which resemble a ball of fire. The seeds were brought for the kapok tree from India by missionaries.

Kapok is grown on trees (like cotton) but lacks its tensile strength. It is used for mattresses and it is 12 times as buoyant as cork, therefore in demand for stuffing life preservers.

SOME OF you will be buying high priced tickets to see locales of art in Europe but have you ever taken a leisurely trip through the famous Ringling museum at Sarasota, Fla.? Here you will see the finest collection of Rubens in America as well as a vast collection of other masters of the Italian Renaissance. For garden lovers will come the thrill of enjoying the courtyard and adjacent grounds.

This contribution by the Ringlings has made Sarasota the cultural center of Florida.

The priceless Asolo Theater adjacent to the museum once had its home in Asolo, Italy, 40 miles northwest of Venice and was brought to the U.S. in 1958. It was known as the home theater of Eleanor Duse and is a showplace where all of the cultural arts are presented.

MAJESTIC ROYAL palms, more than 300 of them, border jungle trails in the Sarasota Jungle Gardens at Sarasota, Fla. Some of the royals are 50 years old and 50 feet high. The trails lead to and from the garden area of lakes and landscaping where exotic wildfowl of the world roam free amid Florida's finest scenery.

B-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC January 31, 1963

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

NATURE NOW

Fellow-animals Important to Man For His Survival

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In the closely knit web of life, man is irrevocably bound to his fellow-animals.

To assuage his hunger he commonly eats of the flesh of every major group from the mollusks through the chordates, of which latter he is a member. Although some of us prefer to by-pass some of these as food items there are others who resist a morsel of a roasted bee or locust or a tin of rattlesnake meat.

MAN'S dependence upon animals for food is variable, for homo sapiens is equipped by nature to be an omnivore. However, by necessity or choice, he may also be either a carnivore or a herbivore. In any case, he is likely to depend heavily upon dairy products which represent one of our most important links with our fellow mammals.

Modern skill with synthetics has greatly reduced our need of animal fiber for clothing and for many another of its former uses in home and industry. However, the time has not yet come when we care to dispense with "that good wool suit."

LEATHER, another animal by-product, has also been replaced in many instances by plastics and insect-spin silk with rayon, but we are not ready to relinquish that real silk dress or a good pair of leather shoes.

So closely does man's bodily structure resemble that of his fellow mammals that a monkey or a mouse can substitute for him in that battle which is constantly being waged in the laboratory and the class room, both against disease and toward understanding. Man's indebtedness must here be written large.

OUR DEPENDENCE upon animals in cultivating the soil and for transportation has been greatly relieved by the invention of the gaso-

line engine. However, a dog team is still a necessity if one travels in the trackless wastes of the Arctic and one small burro can follow a mountain trail where no jeep could venture.

Less obvious but more indispensable is man's dependence upon such animals as bees, moths, butterflies and humming birds for the basic operation of pollination. To be sure, the wind works at this task and man can laboriously do his small bit, but without the above aid we should be minus much of our supply of fruit and vegetables.

We must also give credit to the bee for an annual production of 100 million pounds of bees wax and 12 million pounds of honey.

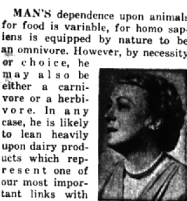
SEEDS MUST travel if plants are to clothe and reclothe the earth. Birds and mammals carry billions of these to new locations both attached to fur and as undigested seeds.

The importance of aeration in soil maintenance is not always recognized, much less, the part which the earthworm plays in the process. An estimated 50,000 of these are busy in each acre, passing some 18 wagon loads of dirt through their bodies per year.

CARNIVOROUS animals act as checks upon certain of their kind such as mosquitoes, grasshoppers and rodents which might otherwise become too abundant for man's comfort. Others play the role of scavengers. Evidently the proportion of a garbage pile if one could be made of the carrion eaten each year by gulls, crows, vultures, opossums and yes, by the lowly beetle.

The lesser contributions of animals to man's economy include fur, feathers, dyes, perfume fixatives, varnish, lacquer, gelatin, ivory, buttons, pearls — the list could go on for pages.

THESE PRACTICAL considerations do not take into account man's companionship with, or delight in, the many facets of his association with animals. If "life is the glory on the earth" who is to say that the so-called "lesser animals" do not share in it?



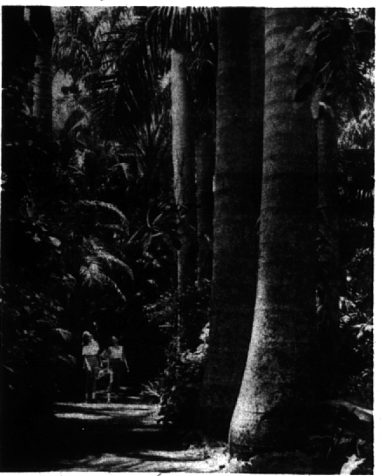
Mrs. Frehse

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

THERE IS a circus in Sarasota to please all ages. The Sarasota Jungle Gardens has storybook splendor as the guests walk through the paths which have vivid coloring with the birds and masses of tropical plants. Alligators are there to make you think you are living dangerously.

When you visit here you feel as though you are deep in the jungle. The fine labeling of the plant material is pleasing to the botanically minded. This is truly a foliage and flower paradise.

You may wish to clip this column to use as a guide when driving through Florida or share it with a friend who doesn't "want to miss a thing" while traveling.



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Fishing Regulations Booklet Available

Free copies of Michigan's special fishing regulations for 1963 are now available through the Conservation Department's Publications Room in Lansing or any of its district field offices.

Of current interest to many fishermen are regulations listing waters from which rainbow trout may be taken through the ice by hook and line during January and February; winterkill lakes open to year-round hook and line angling for fish of any kind or size; and trout lakes and streams where spearing through the ice is permitted. Because supplies are limited, fishermen are asked to make single-copy requests for only those regulations which cover their special interests.

A Torrington, Conn., resident was driving through the downtown area when his auto was struck by a 16-pound bowling ball. Police have not yet found from where it came.

STRICTLY FRESH

In days past, men lost their shirts in the stock market; now, however, they lose them in the supermarket.

Some say that Patrick Henry would have kept still if he had known what taxation would do to them.



Men—like steel—are of little use when they lose their temper.

One thing about spring, the weather gets warmer about the same time the tax collector is taking the shirt off your back.

Americana to Star in Shop Based in Franklin Landmark

By NITA HARD
Special Writer

FRANKLIN—Michael M. Michaels not only has adopted this county, he seems interested in collecting every iota of its heritage under his own roof.

And, when one roof isn't enough to accommodate it all, he buys two roofs.

The owner of the Curiosity Shoppe at 1770 S. Telegraph is the new owner of the former Franklin Interiors building on Franklin Road. He can hardly contain himself until Feb. 1 when he will formally open the Franklin branch of his antique business.

have at last found the ideal "country" setting for their simple, rural-type antiques.

THEY AGREE THAT this harmonious arrangement could only be consummated as a result of the extensive restoration of the old inn several years ago by James Branstrom, A.I.D.

Branstrom is discontinuing the Franklin Interiors to concentrate his efforts on the design and merchandising of fine furniture.



MICHAEL M. MICHAELS, a connoisseur of early Americana, contemplates the opening of a new store in one of Franklin's historic old buildings as he relaxes in the Curiosity Shoppe on Telegraph Road. He and his wife will operate both shops.

Educator Outlines New Way To Teach History

A way of teaching kindergarten history that they can use all the way through school is explained in a national publication by Dr. Myles Platt, Oakland County director of social studies.

In an article in the January issue of Social Education, the official journal of the National Council for the Social Studies, Dr. Platt advocates the teaching of history, geography and government by teaching concepts about man and how he lives.

He defines a concept as "a few ideas in one direct statement." He lists some of the concepts which can be taught in kindergarten: "People who live before us influence how we live today." "Living can be improved by intelligent men." "Men organize to protect themselves."

THE CONCEPT, "Man must adapt to his geographical environment in order to survive," explains why the Oakland County resident shovels snow off his sidewalk as well as an Arab in the Sahara wraps his face with his robes during a sandstorm.

Dr. Platt is directing a social studies curriculum project for Oakland County, which is intended to enlarge the scope and enrich the content of history, geography and government courses from kindergarten through senior high.

Working with his own eight teachers released from classroom duties in their own school districts. Lessons devised by the project members have already been tested in each of the eight districts.

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