

Colorful Autumn Begins Its Last Days

The last lingering days of autumn are filled with "What I can't express, yet cannot all conceal."

To many of us this is the year's finest hour and much as we might like to do so, we cannot stay nature's hand.

It is the time when rides and walks along country lanes and roads are especially rewarding.

It gets yards many stretches where the hedgerows grow in wild abandon because spraying and mowing have been omitted and

where the trees meet in a canopied arch overhead.

WE ARE FREQUENT travelers on these broads and it is here that we sometimes come upon the wild plants of the hedgerow.

Covered with white bloom it is a lady note amidst the early spring foliage. In the autumn its red-checked fruit hangs ripe and it was on a walk in the hedgerow that our grandmothers gathered its richness to add to their winter's store of jelly.



Mrs. Freese

How tangy and wild is its wild flavor on the tongue!

THE YELLOW color of grape contrasts agreeably with the deep scarlet of woodbine which with its five-fingered leaves festoons the fences and climbs into the highest tre-tops.

ONE OF THE most frequently seen shrubs in this area is the panted dogwood. Its smooth white berries are set above purple-red fruit stalks; its ruddy leaves make a backdrop for goldenrod and wild sunflower.

But at summer's end it is the aster tribe which steals the flower show. With some 1500 species they spread like slow smoke over the hills and valleys of the world.

Blues and lavenders of many hues are their colors with a sprinkling of white and purple varieties. Aided by a good manual it makes a pleasant afternoon to



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Grid puzzle with numbers and letters.

BEST SELLERS From La Belles FICTION

- 1. The Group. 2. The Shoes of the Fisherman. 3. Caravan. 4. City of Night. 5. People in the Morning. 6. The Collector. 7. Fowl. 8. Elizabeth Apollon. 9. Off-Har. 10. The Battle of the Villa Fiorita. 11. The Living Reed. 12. Duck.

GENERAL

- 1. JFK: The Man and the Myth. 2. The American Way of Death. 3. The Fire Next Time. 4. I Owe Russia \$1200. 5. My Darling Clementine. 6. Rascal. 7. The Wise Is Bitter. 8. Security Is a Thriller and a Blast. 9. The Education of American Teachers. 10. Happiness Is a Warm Puppy.

Source: New York Times Book Review Section, October 20 issue. See our excellent selection of paper-bound classics and fiction.

137 West Maple Birmingham

Potpourri

By JULIE CANDLER

You may think this is fetching things a little far, but I can prove that Jackie Kennedy has just given Howard Machette to the people of India for five weeks. Here's how it happened.

Machette is on leave from his art instructing at Walnut Lake and Harlan elementary schools so that he can teach at the Children's Carnival Art Exhibition in India.

The Carnival is a cultural goodwill project sponsored annually by the Museum of Modern Art. It was presented to the people of India by Mrs. JFK herself.

A certain Birmingham Eclectic columnist named Hall whose enthusiastic writing style lures people into reading about art, lauded D'Amico recently.

The famous art educator coached Machette in special creative art studies in New York City last summer. Now, the young Birmingham school teacher is one of five participating in the Carnival in October and November.

And furthermore—getting back to a previous discourse on whether or not writers should be concerned about where they're going to sell their work—allow me to quote the famous Dr. Samuel Johnson.

He claimed, "No man but a blockhead wrote except for money."

ALL EIGHT of the Hart children are now in school, reports U. S. Senator Philip A. Hart. That means, however that the former Birmingham resident and his wife, Jane, must have their own rapid transit system operating bright and early each day in Washington.

Imagine having to figure out what kids went in which car and to what school and with what driver—early in the morning yet!

For such a logistics maneuver early every morning, I just wouldn't have the Hart.

Our junior Senator from Michigan says it's difficult for his Senate colleagues to understand when he's late occasionally for those early-morning breakfast conferences they love to schedule.

DID YOU know that Birmingham's gorgeous girl newscaster and forecaster (via WXYZ-TV), Pat Morris, commented a dog fashion show recently? The show featured the latest mink, tweed and cashmere wraps for the canine set.

The audience, however, consisted chiefly of humans. They laughed and applauded every pedigreed pet model, and so did Commentator Pat. Laughing hardest over the affair were devotees of the Grosse Pointe Symphony, which benefitted from the show.

familiar to all who relish an autumn ramble. At day's end great flocks of starling fly overhead like a dark and flowing scarf while the cattle walk patiently outside barns with their old stone foundations and weathered siding.

Today a single species remains to us and by the time you read these lines its thrice-patterned leaves will be winnowed along many a curving roadside.

THE RED ash is a tree seldom seen hereabouts but it grows sparsely in the Southern half of our lower peninsula. Now its bright colors herald its presence.

SUMAC is an old favorite, not only with the color photographers but of birds which eat its long-lasting fruit well into the spring.

Several species appear in various areas, all acceptable except one which is the most poisonous plant in our state. Usually present in low woods and wet swamps, its smooth grey bark and drooping cluster of white berries should be

Critic

(Continued from J-1)

practice in life what he stands for in his column. His security is threatened by the possibility that his father will write a dishonest review and that Angela will leave.

TENSIONS RISE in the Ballantine household as curtain time nears. TV diners appear more and more frequently in the refrigerator.

Parker's mother-in-law tells him, "Fan that play and you'll have less love and more integrity." Angela treats him not to come to the play at all; and his ex-wife, who arrives on the scene to report, cooly that Angela and the director were "overheard doing nothing."

PARKER is truly wrestling with the devil as he is torn between either writing an honest review or not going at all. He can't bear the thought of his incompetent assistant covering the show because he will probably like it.

Twenty minutes before curtain time his ex-wife is playing him with her undulating charms and Parker is roaring drunk as at a crucial moment in his life.

JERRY McMECHAN scored a bull's eye as Parker Ballantine. He delivered shot after shot with classical timing and wit.

"Critic's Choice" not being an actor-proof play, the character of Parker Ballantine would have been synthetic without the sympathy and genuine talents of McMechan. He achieved a skillful balance of making a character live without turning the role into a vehicle for histrionics.

Not a single stinging line was lost by McMechan and he gave breadth, vitality and warmth to a rather cold character. McMechan is an excellent actor. "Critic's Choice" is worth seeing if only to witness Jerry McMechan play the drunk scene with rocking style.

BUD SCRIBNER played John Ballantine, Parker's son, with keen perception rare in so young an actor. His crisply delivered lines, his excellent and natural sense of comedy and timing were refreshing. He was most moving in his portrayal of a son's passion to see his father upheld to life the principles he preaches in his work.

Mary Moore as Angela Ballantine showed consistently solid characterization and her buoyant talents were well cast in the role of a wife who refuses to repudiate her literary aspirations for fear of losing her husband. In full control of her role, Mary Moore gave a fine performance.

MIMI PRICK as Ivy London was lively and unforgoingly the oomph girl herself. Dottie Hutton played the mother-in-law, Charlotte Orr, with appealing warmth and ease. Her comfortable sophistication provided pleasant relief from the high-keyed nature of the rest of the group.

Dion Zapatos and Essie were capably enacted by Larry Finn and Donna Ryder.

THE ENTIRE production showed solid direction and good pacing. It was tightly held together under the direction of Marge Hendrick. Assistant director was Terry Thompson, producer was Ginny Avison.

Set design was tastefully done by Isabel Hinkeloch; set construction was by George Rose, Gary Bowden, Mickey Briggs, Jim Kieker, George McClellan, Bill Koenig, Hans Hendrick, John Dixon and Tom Martin.

Lighting and sound were by Lillian Holmes, Dick Guilford, Jim Fox and Dick Page. Costumes were by Robin Bath.

If "Critic's Choice" is an indication of what the season at St. Dunstan's holds in store we could well save our money and spend it out on Lone Pine Road.

THIS PRODUCTION was by people involved in the theatre because they love it and for no other reason. It displayed fine showmanship; it displayed fine maintenance care; it displayed fine costumes, staging.

Because a playhouse is not professional is no excuse for sloppy theater and St. Dunstan's second in with a winner for an opener. "Critic's Choice" is this critic's choice for a well-spent evening in the theatre.

Events

(Continued from S-D)

search at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The "Markings of Ceramics" at 1:30 p.m. at the Village Woman's Club, 130 E. Long Lakes Road, Bloomfield Hills. Open to the public.

RAVEN GALLERY—A company of local singers, featuring soprano Maria Roumell, will do "The Merry Widow" at the Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

BRIDGE — Birmingham-Bloomfield Area Bridge Club at the YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, beginning at 7:45 p.m. Open to the public.

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BRIDGE — The Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at the YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, at 7:45 p.m. Open to the public.

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