

## Make a Lenten Arrangement

The Lenten season has begun and regardless of one's church affiliation it is appropriate to make a timely arrangement with a Madonna having plant material incorporated in the composition.

Our example has rooted cuttings of pachyandra. This is a ground cover which prefers the darkest shade and will give us dividends of pleasure by enjoying a winter in the house as a plant or filler for cut flowers.

When the frost is on the pumpkin you cut off a few terminal cuttings, place them in water until they root. You may pot them in soil or continue to raise them in water within your favorite glass container, adding new water every month with some fertilizer in the water, an amount about the size of a pea.

THE TREAT of the season was a talk by Beverly Nichols who was brought to Birmingham by Town Hall.

Here we have an ageless, gallant English gentleman with the charm of Maurice Chevalier.

His interest has been in creating a beautiful garden and writing. Mr. Nichols has captured the true meaning of creating beauty as a magnet to attract others to a personal philosophy of living. This magnet has beckoned royalty to come and relax within his heaven created so that the tensions of the world can be forgotten.

IN A STRANGE sort of a way he is England's Will Rogers in tweeds. He has written 46 books which have been well received. One of the nearest highlights of his luncheon following the Thursday lecture was the introduction to Nichols of Mrs. Marvin H. Rosie who had left Muskegon Heights at 5 a.m. for the occasion.

She is a collector of his writings and has over 20 of his books. Her garden has been created and inspired by the Nichols's philosophy, she says: "Anyone who really likes gardens enjoys them not only for their flowers, but for the happy hours of working with the soil, and the rest and relaxation which comes from gardening. One may take their troubles and cares with them

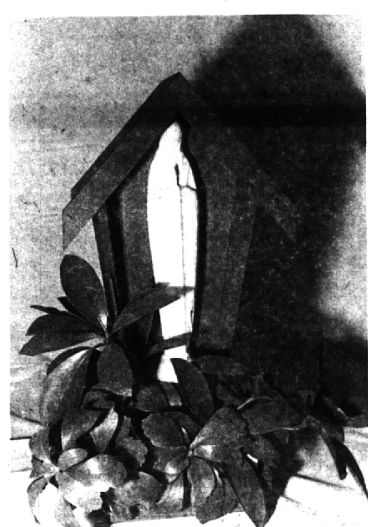
when they go out to do garden work, but they will not stay with you. All gardens are therapeutic and have the power to make you forget everything but the fun of gardening."

THE BURLINGAMES will be guests at the famous garden of Beverly Nichols in August and "a wee luncheon."

As you plan your weeks ahead don't forget to head toward Chicago for the World Flower Show in McCormick Place Mar. 16 to 24. This is the finest flower show in

the country—with no exceptions (my opinion). Persepolis are back in style and they will be featured in a modern presentation there. An pergolas are back in style, so are pergolas. Baskets as companion details. These baskets make a fine accent hanging from a tree where the light is restricted.

The flower show in Chicago is a constant series of presentations with floral groups and national speakers to inspire plant enthusiasts who come from all over the country to see this treat.



Mrs. Burlingame

AN APPROPRIATE arrangement for the Lenten season is the use of a madonna with plain leaves simply placed around the base. Used here are cuttings of the pachyandra. They can be used either as "green" in arrangements with cut flowers or as a houseplant "rooted" in a glass container.

## Sound Methods Used To Teach Small Fry

How about taking a trip to California? Your choice, the train or a plane.

Every day the kindergartners at May Belle Clara's class at Westchester Elementary School eagerly head for California. The sparkle and fun of such "games" are an integral part of teaching phonics. This method is based on the use of pictorial charts, arranged on a scientific phonetic foundation, with a definite plan for training the children in auditory and visual discrimination. There are 26 sounds on the consonant chart and 12 sounds on the vowel chart.

THERE ARE THREE main steps in teaching the phonovisual method: 1. Initial consonants—the kindergartners learn the consonant sounds in connection with key pictures, for example, "f" by a picture of a fan or an actual fan

which the teacher holds up. 2. Initial and final consonants—the children learn to listen through a word, identifying the first and last sounds, for example, "fr" and "nc" in pie.

3. Vowels—these are developed in the first and second grades. The phonovisual method supplements basic reading programs in the primary grades. It provides the child with the power to attack new words, giving him clues to help him remember words already presented. Thus with the tools for adequate word attack, he will have early security in the mechanics of reading.

Once the child has mastered the phonovisual charts, he can spell many of the "sound" words without previous study knowing only the non-phonetic words to be learned. In many instances in speaking, this method helps correct many articulatory defects.

THE KINDERGARTEN teacher's goal is to help each child, as he establishes the habit of good listening and increases his attention span, to become thoroughly familiar with the consonant sounds and the appearance of the letters that represent them. Reading is not taught in kindergarten.

Since the order of the phonovisual charts must be slowly and thoroughly established, consistent drill is a "must." This is where the "game" comes in. There is the puppet who's not too bright. The children quickly catch the mistakes of the puppet and are eager to correct him. When the children spot a mistake, they must start at the top of the chart in which the mistake was made.

THEN THERE'S the train. The children choose a consonant, for example "p." In order to get on the train, each child must say a word that, in this case, starts with the letter "p."

Actually, the success of the phonovisual method depends on the child's ability to listen. It has been found that the children who have learned by this method have entered the first grade with the power to learn the ability to listen, a greatly increased attention span and the ability to recognize consonant sounds and to point to the letter which the sound represents.

This method will be used in kindergartens in all Birmingham public elementary schools beginning in the 1963-64 school year. The phonovisual method was developed by two speech teachers. The authors of the program founded the Primary Day School, Bethesda, Md., a demonstration school for teaching this method.



FUN AND GAMES and a chance to learn to match the sight and sound of consonants and vowels are all in a day's "phonovisual" work in the kindergarten class at Westchester Elementary School. Teacher May Belle Clara helps a little girl with the "sound-off" as the miniature student pegs a place on the board with an appropriate letter of the alphabet.

## Boat Owners Warned To Reregister Craft

Despite the zero weather of January and the snows of February, motorboat owners are all set for the spring day when they will put their craft into the water. They are the foresighted men and women who have their 1963 decal which shows they have paid \$1 for their three-year Michigan boat license.

Secretary of State James M. Hare says that there are about 300,000 watercraft owners who have not yet re-registered their boats. "Failure to re-register soon could result in a boat owner losing his present 'MC' license tags," Hare said. "We sent out re-registration forms to about 400,000 Michigan owners so that they could be sure of keeping their current

boat numbers and to avoid the nuisance of having to get a new set.

HARE SAID that boat trailers weighing less than 1,000 pounds need not be reweighed for the 1964 vehicle license year. Watercraft enthusiasts owning trailers can submit a proof of weight a previous year's registration, a manufacturer's statement of origin, or a copy of a bill of sale from a dealer wherein the weight of the unit is stated.

All trucks and commercial vehicles, with the exception of trailers weighing less than 1,000 pounds, municipally franchised buses and mobile homes must be reweighed before 1963 tags or plates can be issued.

## The Birmingham Eclectic Features

### NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

## Chipmunk 'Burrows In' For Winter Hibernation

On a recent sunny morning telltale tracks in the snow revealed the presence of a chipmunk in our midst. This little fellow is one of the friendliest members of the large rodent family. It is probable that he had interrupted his winter hibernation sleep to slake his thirst with a mouthful or two of snow.

In early spring, before the miracle of living green has once more asserted itself, a litter of four or five tiny chipmunks lie blind and naked in the central chamber of their parents' burrow. Here safety and comfort are assured in a spot accessible only by means of a long twisting tunnel.



Mrs. Frehe

ALREADY STIRRING in each of these little ones is that potent force which we call instinct. This is the unlearned wisdom transmitted to them by generations of their kind and it is their birthright. As such it gives constant direction to their lives even as it does to that of the migrating blue bird and to the chemically obedient skunk cabbage hidden in the marsh.

Now in the quiet darkness of moist earth a tiny rodent stirs and stirs. Soon instinct directs his infant muzzle toward the furry warmth that is his mother's breast where there is security and the immediate satisfaction that food alone can bring.

SLOWLY THE WEEKS slip by in the world overhead. Suddenly the shoots of green plants pierce the earth, blossoming blood-red sheds its fragile white petals and robins nest again. May and June bring life's fulfillment and in his underworld burrow the chip-

munk makes his first timid explorations. His small squirrel-like body has taken on the black striped pelage and the rusty brown coat and the light colored underparts which mark his kind. Meanwhile he has been tempted by his curiosity to nibble on the stored acorns and beechnuts in the burrow.

Soon thereafter he is weaned. In time, he learns how to hold a nut in his forepaws while he breaks and strips its shell with his sharp incisors. He also learns how to anticipate his food supply and how to carry it stuffed in his cheek pouches.

WILD ANIMALS are made for feeling and action and soon new impulses tug at the little chipmunk impelling him to enter the outer world. So on a morning in late spring, he peeps out from his burrow to feel the sun's warmth on his furry coat. His body has now taken on its adult shape and in a moment he is gone.

The little chipmunk soon learns that life in the outer world is ruled by such demands as gnawing hunger and the constant threat of danger and death. He is largely vegetarian but when nuts, grains and berries do not satisfy his appetite, he takes to the branches of a tree where he is as clever with a bird's egg as with an acorn and where he sometimes relishes the taste of warm flesh and blood.

NIBBLING, SCURRYING, searching and frolicking—these, too, are a part of his adult world. He bounds under fences, runs through field and meadow or scampers into a woodland glade. But danger and death shadow his days and he is ever at the mercy of such creatures as a sharp-eyed hawk or a cunning weasel. His life is also punctuated with leisure hours when he lolls about in the sun on a warm rock or when, brimming with life, he gives out his pleasant "chip-chip-chip" repeated like a bird's song.

As summer advances he searches for a suitable place under an old stump or in the shelter of a boulder. Here he carefully digs his burrow, scattering the tell-tale dirt with his forepaws. He dips down sharply for a foot or two, then makes a gradual slope for perhaps a yard to a point below the frost line. Here he excavates a central chamber and lines it with dried grasses. From this lead several tunnels to storage rooms which together may hold as much as a half bushel of nuts.

On a day in late autumn, instinct warns him that sunshine and warmth will not last forever so he promptly begins to gather and hoard his winter food.

When killing frost sears the land he retreats to his burrow to lie relaxed and curled into a ball within its central chamber. Soon his breathing grows slower and slower and his heart beat quiets. Winter comes. Then he enters into his hibernating sleep, thereby answering another of nature's impulses.

And so the chipmunk lies, oblivious to the smell of drying grass, to the silence of earth. But with the coming of early spring he is stirred by an ancient instinct to savor again the delights of the outer world. Gradually he awakens and soon he leaves his burrow to bask once more in the early sun, to find a mate and to repeat the age-old pattern of his kind.

### STRICTLY FRESH

Where uniformity of opinion is found, you can safely assume that someone isn't thinking.

Smart persons speak from experience; it's the smarter



persons, however, that from experience don't speak.

One year is like another—only during the new year, everything happens one day later than last year.

It is said that letting the cat out of the bag is easier than putting it back in.



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## May Number Interchanges On Freeways

The Michigan State Highway Department at Lansing is considering a plan to number all freeway interchanges.

State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie said a preliminary interchange numbering plan was developed last fall and has been discussed with officials of various regional and local tourist associations.

"Several problems must be worked out before a final decision is made," Mackie said.

Michigan has 350 interchanges on its more than 1,000 miles of freeway. Mackie said the State Highway Department has been working closely with the American Association of State Highway Officials on the development of a system of interchange numbering for the entire country.

AASHO WILL, if it adopts a national plan, establish specifications for the size, shape, color and location of interchange numbering signs so they will be uniform in all states.

"We have considered several plans to number Michigan's freeway interchanges during the last two years and have tested various kinds of signs that would be used to do this," Mackie said. "However, we have felt all along that an interchange numbering system shouldn't be put into effect until most of our major freeway routes were completed."