

Conservation Is Concern of 2 Conferences

Thinking citizens everywhere agree that conservation of our natural resources ranks high on the list of our concerns for the future of our nation.

This was the theme of the annual meeting of the National Wildlife Federation, which met in Detroit Mar. 1 through Mar. 3. The group made up of conservation clubs from 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The general theme of the conference was "Conservation's Common Frontiers." Attending the meeting were many top conservation and wildlife authorities among them teachers, technicians and administrators.

SPEAKERS INCLUDED Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who said, "The nation must insure that the enjoyment of the outdoors is open to all of our people regardless of where they live or what their income." Due to illness, Rachel Carson, whose controversial book "Silent Spring" has created a storm of protest among its readers, was unable to appear at the Saturday evening banquet. However, she was awarded the title "Conservationist of the Year" in absentia.

Her book condemns the uncontrolled use of chemical pesticides and presents a well-documented treatise on their harmful effects on man as well as on plants and animals.

In her acceptance speech, which was read at the banquet, Miss Carson called upon all conservationists to unite in solving the pesticide problem today because "much of the damage is irrevocable and tomorrow may be too late."

Walter Reuther expressed a practical point of view: "We must demonstrate that a free society can dedicate its resources to meeting human needs. We spend 50 billion dollars each year on missile development and permit on resource development, even though the gap in resource development is as fatal as a missile gap."

MICHIGAN'S U. S. Representative Dingwell urged building up the membership of state clubs to provide sufficient support for urgently needed conservation measures.

The chief emphasis of the conference was on the point that conservation, which used to be chiefly a matter of fish and game problems, now includes a whole spectrum of activities which affect the development of nature centers and outdoor recreation areas; game, fish, forest, park and water management; studies on habitats and vanishing species; and that all efforts in these areas should con-

verge on their relationship to the well-being of the nation's citizens.

FOLLOWING THE above three-day meeting, the 28th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference was held Mar. 1 through 6. It was attended by more than 1000 leading conservationists, educators, scientists, sportsmen and writers. Among them was Edward Weeks, editor of the Atlantic Monthly, who opened the program with "Recreation, Key to Wealth."

He was followed by Secretary of the Interior, U.S., the nation's highest ranking conservation official who discussed changes in the present policy which generally favors public hunting in national parks.

He also said that the control of the animal population in our federal parks is best handled by the federal government.

FEATURE PAGE

DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Flower Arrangement Adds Spark to Buffet Setting

If you want glamour for your buffet table consider the pictured container which calls for very few flowers and a little green foliage.

Just call it your party candle and use it in different locations for various parties whether it be your powder room, on the hall chest or on an hors d'oeuvre tray. Such an accessory will give you added prestige as a party giver.

HAVE JUST been reading over my notes from a European trip in 1960. For a six week trip in the latter part of the summer I said: "Take two cotton day time dresses, two wool day-time dresses, plus three dresses of the cocktail va-

Also, for a couple traveling in Europe in a compact car it would cost them for food, shelter, car expense and shelter \$30 per day if they did not rent the car but had bought it. You can locate picture faces that help somebody making their plans for a 1963 European Holiday.

IT IS IMPORTANT to remember that many of the trinkets you might pick up, you wouldn't look at when home. (Reminds me of people earnestly looking for sea shells on the beach and then when they get home they wonder what to do with the lot.)

THE DETROIT Flower Show was the best I have seen in many years. There were numerous examples of beauty projects which you could reproduce in your own garden.

New plant introductions are beginning to be heralded by their sponsors. Be on the look out for the new petunia which is yellow, "Brasseland."

Also, there is a new peach bush which took 25 years to develop for the retail trade. This plant will produce full size peaches on a three foot tree. Such a dwarf tree would have to be planted in full sun. Soft pink flowers would be colorful in the spring followed by the free stone peaches.

ANOTHER new introduction this year is "Malabar spinach" which grows as a vine appearing as an ornamental climber. For those who are familiar with India, Burma and the Philippines, it can be trained on a fence or trellis. This mode of growing will assure clean leaves. As it is necessary to cut off portions of it for eating, other leaves will quickly form in their place.

OUR SOIL in this area hasn't been very hospitable to sweet peas but this year we are having of a new style sweet pea which is not grown as a vine but is a bush type plant. It will grow 12" high and will be desirable for bedding and border use. This plant variety is known as "Bijou." The colors available are white, salmon, soft pink, brilliant rose, scarlet red and clear blue.

It is fun to try some of these new introductions. As it is necessary to have your competing flower friends ask, "What in the world have you got there?" You can see that gardening is fun.

B'hman Gets Memorial Plaque

The presentation of the Harley Spargue memorial plaque was made at a Birmingham man at the general meeting of the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan by Edward Spargue.

This plaque is given by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Spargue in memory of their son Harley, who was a victim of the dread disease of leukemia. The award is presented annually to an individual for his or her outstanding service to the Children's Leukemia Foundation.

In the award ceremony, the sixth, was James DeGroot of 1921 Bradford, Birmingham. Mr. DeGroot is chairman of the medical and committee and vice president of the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

Michigan's gain compares with an eight per cent increase in tourism throughout the United States during 1962, as estimated by national travel experts, he said.

OF 16 MICHIGAN communities throughout the state reporting to the council, 13 indicated 1962 vacation travel business increases ranging from two per cent to fifty per cent. Nine reported decreases ranging from two per cent to forty per cent, and four areas indicated

ALONG WITH reports from 16 individual communities, other 1962 travel business indicators (compared with 1961 figures) cited by the council included:

A three per cent increase in requests received by the council for Michigan travel information and literature.

A fifteen per cent rise in camping permits issued at state parks and a ten to fifteen per cent increase in use of state forest campgrounds.

An increase in general highway traffic of slightly more than five per cent.

A five per cent increase in hunting and fishing license sales.

An increase of more than four per cent in Mackinac Bridge crossings.

THE COUNCIL SAID factors responsible for the upswing in tourist business included:

Generally improved economic conditions throughout the nation, making more money available for recreational travel. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates the national economy in 1962 showed a five per cent improvement over 1961.

Rapid development of Michigan's share of the interstate highway system, with more than 1,000 miles of freeways in the state now open to travelers.

Improved accommodations in many sections of the state, including several new and expanded

(See TOURIST YEAR, 7-D)

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STRESSED AS one of our most crucial problems was the preservation of wild life habitats lest we face the extinction of many species.

Mud Hens Are Good Fighters

Mud hens—or coots—are vicious fighters when it comes to defending their nesting territory, according to George S. Hunt, assistant professor of wildlife management at the University of Michigan.

"They will jump up and meet breast to breast, fighting with feet and wings. They may even lie back on the water and use their long, sharp claws to fight," he said.

"Many thousands of coots are shot each year in Michigan. There must be a tremendous waste. But, from the standpoint of sports sport, they are important numerically."

"THE COOT is a waterfowl, using water areas almost exclusively. It can dive as much as 20 feet down and swims with legs, feet and wings to seek aquatic plants. You sometimes see a few with a root-sized flock of canvasback or redhead ducks. When these birds come up with food the coot steals what they drop."

Hunt described the coot as about the size of a bantam hen. General coloration in the adults is a slight gray color with strikingly white bill.

"Many people might have the idea that these birds aren't very good fliers if they have viewed them along a marsh where they fly a few strokes and then land. Actually they are good fliers once they get up off the water," he says.

STRICTLY FRESH

A true optimist is a fisherman who takes along a camera.

When they go to department stores, some wives are

CHARGED IT

like General Custer—the one who said they know is "Charge."

Few things in the world are more spacious than a room many of us have for improvement.

Birmingham Eccentric Want Ads Get Results—MI 4-1100

State Has Best Tourist Year

Michigan enjoyed its best tourist business year in history during 1962, with expenditures by vacation travelers exceeding \$680 million, the state tourist council has announced.

"All available information on the year indicates statewide tourist business showed a five to seven per cent increase," according to Robert J. Furlong, council director. "Variations throughout the state were accentuated however by substantial shifts in travel patterns."

Machine Bakes Books Of Braille for Blind

A "book cooking machine" that reproduces a Braille page in four seconds is enlarging the book supply for Oakland County blind children this fall.

Called a Thermoform, the machine is a kind of electric oven. Thin sheets of green plastic are placed on top of Braille dots and the form operator pulls the heating element into place.

In four seconds, the heated plastic sheet settles around the raised dots, accurately duplicating the page.

Clifford Magnusson, Oakland County special education consultant, has reproduced an assortment of textbooks, raised maps, multiplication tables, geometric forms and other teaching materials for sightless youngsters at every grade level.

Dr. Paul Thoms, director of special education for Oakland County, explained that there is a constant shortage of Braille material.

"Volunteer Braille transcribers do much to fill the gap between what blind children need and what is commercially available," Thoms said.

"Until the Thermoform was installed, either two or more children shared the same book, which was not satisfactory, or a transcriber had to be asked to transcribe

Braille second copies. By duplicating Braille pages mechanically we can allow the transcribers to produce new material," he said.

THE SHORTAGE of personnel qualified to convert printed material to Braille requires that a machine be used as much as possible, Thoms explained. First of all, "Brailleists" are unpaid volunteers, he said.

To be certified to transcribe books for the blind, these volunteers must complete an eight-month course and submit a 50-page manuscript to the Library of Congress for approval. Certification is granted by the Library of Congress. There are now 25 Thermoforms in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Before a book is to be transcribed into Braille, a notice of intent is filed with the American Printing House for the Blind as an assurance that the book will not be being duplicated. When the transcription is completed, the American Printing House is notified and a file card is made of the book.

"OCCASIONALLY," Dr. Thoms said, "we find that a book we need has been transcribed in California or New York. We can then arrange to borrow the book and reproduce it. Copyright arrangements are not necessary, as the American Printing House, which has been transcribed in California or New York. We can then arrange to borrow the book and reproduce it. Copyright arrangements are not necessary, as the American Printing House,

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