

Nature's Purpose for Fruit Is to House the Plant Seed

Now in late autumn the fruits of our earth are once more winnowed, plucked and stored for man's pleasure and sustenance.

Most of us think of fruit in pleasant dimensions of color, shape and taste. Nature, however, does not cater to the enjoyment of our senses, although much of our fruit appears to us in these terms.

Fruit, whether it be an apple, a cockle-bur or an acorn, is nothing more or less than the ripened seed vessel of the plant which bears it, together with any other tissues which develop in a manner making them a part of the finished whole.

From nature's point of view, a fruit then is something created to house a seed. Frequently it is brightly colored to aid in its dispersal for it is this seed which is the carrier and the preserver of all our manifold plant species.

Nature single-handed was the earth's first gardener. Existing throughout the millennia before the appearance of man, she developed and retained that which succeeded and discarded that which failed.

THIS PROCEDURE resulted in the kind of root system best adapted to the particular soil in which the plant grew, leaves so placed and shaped that they could manufacture the most food when exposed to the sun and flowers which would produce a maximum of seeds so equipped that they would retain their fertility in spite of many hazards.

As a result of these worldwide experiments, plants with their accompanying fruits each yielded that and the habitat best suited by their particular well-being.

Primitive man was not a gardener. He was a hunter-gatherer who that nature herself produced. It was only by long and costly experiment that he was able to distinguish between edible and poisonous wild foods and thus appropriate them for his own use.

GRADUALLY as he left savanna-land behind, he became a gardener in the sense that he also learned how to store and grow plants from seed.

For untold years he was a semi- nomader, even after he had learned to build for himself a temporary shelter in a favorable place for producing and storing his food.

As man grew in wisdom and stature he left behind his transient ways, the while increasing his agricultural skills. Today, he has become the chief gardener of the earth's tillable areas with fruits in their largest sense, as his chief concern.

SCIENTISTS believe that "stone fruits" such as plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and almonds were among our earliest cultivated foods.

These were and yet are particularly adapted to growing conditions along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and in the Orient where it is believed the first gardens were planted. Today these stone fruits or "drupes" are of worldwide distribution and some species are still present in their wild state along our Midwestern country roads and lanes, among them plum and cherry.

Classifying fruits according to their structure, one may designate a second group as "dry fruits" which have no edible flesh around the seed vessel.

Among these are the many species of nuts which provide some of our richest food sources. Our cereal grains, our most im-

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer

portant food source, may also be considered as dry fruits, although in this case the seed coat is attached to the ripened ovary wall.

Our "core fruits" are woody-stemmed members of the large and important rose family. Here included are pears and apples which are among the most versatile and highly prized of our fruits.

THE EDIBLE portion of these core fruits or "pomes" is made up of the developed end of the flower stalk which during its period of growth attaches itself inseparably to the ripened seed vessel which forms the inner core.

Our "berries" which show great variety of form and structure, comprise another group of fruits. They may have soft flesh surrounding the multiple seeds as in blackberries or raspberries or the seeds may be scattered throughout the flesh as in watermelons and tomatoes.

Yet others like muskmelon, squash and pumpkins contain their seeds in a protected inner cavity.

But to the botanist all seeds are fruits including such diverse structures as beans, acorns, coconuts, walnuts, cockle-burs, maple wings, peanuts, wheat corn and cotton bolls.

(More about "Fruit" in next week's column.)

Young Pianist Plays Chopin With Maturity

Reviewed by MARGARET WALDRON

Rebecca Pennys, 17-year-old pianist from Beverly Hills, Cal., was presented in an all-Chopin recital Thursday evening at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Bloomfield Hills.

Choosing a long and demanding program, Miss Pennys displayed a brilliant technique and a mature artistic eye seldom seen in her professional elders.

Her obviously proper respect for the music she played was revealed in this first appearance before an audience which filled the auditorium, overflowing into the choir lofts.

NOT ALL HER program was equally impressive, but her Sonata in B-Flat Major, Opus 35, contained the very heart and soul of Chopin, a performance seeming inimitable by an artist of such tender years.

It was in her performance of the six Preludes, however, that her virtuosity created moments of greatness which were truly thrilling.

Miss Pennys seemed most at ease in her performance of the Dramatic Etudes with which she closed her recital program.

Early in 1965 Rebecca Pennys will be participating in the International Chopin Festival in Warsaw, Poland.

Coin Club Screens Denver Mint Films

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham. A movie tour of the Denver mint will be shown.

The next regular meeting, featuring a coin auction is scheduled for Nov. 18. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month. All meetings including the film program are open to the public.

B'ham Librarian Works in Exhibit At World's Fair

Jeannette A. Golle, 782 Colonial Court, Birmingham, worked with the UNIVAC 400 Real-Time System in the American Library Association's Library/USA Exhibit at the United States Pavilion at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.

Miss Golle is a librarian in the Special Libraries Association-National at MacMarus, John & Adams, Inc., Bloomfield Hills.

SHE HAS BEEN participating in this first demonstration of what may be the reference library of the future which will enable librarians anywhere in the country to contact regional information centers for instantaneous reference information from a Univac 400 System.

At the World's Fair the Univac system has information stored on 75 different subjects and will print out 700-word reports written for child and adult level and in four different languages, English, French, Spanish and German.

Symphony Presents University Chorus

The Oakland University Chorus will be presented March 20 with the Scandinavian Symphony directed by Owen Dalley at the Masonic Temple, Detroit. Other concerts for the orchestra's 35th season will spotlight David Albee, pianist, Nov. 7; Detroit City Ballet, Jan. 30; and Judy Berman, violinist, May 15. Programs are at 8:20 p.m.



Mrs. Frehse

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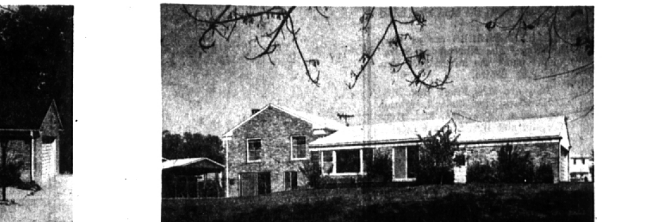
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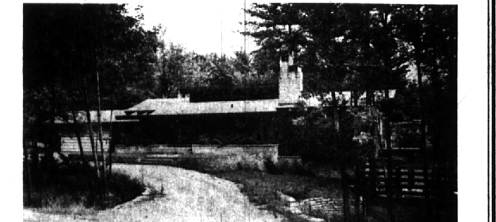
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