

# Summer Brilliance Ends as Fall's Tones Begin

Admissions Officer At Bennett Confab

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By CLEO SYMONS

Special Writer

Summer ended today. Not according to the calendar—that took place weeks ago. But this was actual. The finale came abruptly, with drama and stark realism, like the end of any good play.

As I walked in the yard, intent on material for yet another bouquet, the late afternoon sun made a great show of warmth and brilliance.

Leaves showered gently down and rolled across the grass. The air was hazy and quiet, and I was beguiled into believing that "warm days will never cease."

FROM AMONG the withered flower stalks I cleared a bright handful of snapdragons and some late-blooming roses that had escaped the frost. And a lone lily—my annual gem from a potted Easter gift.

These I laid on the picnic table while I made the rounds. Here I found a bunch of scarlet zinnias for a splash of color, three azure bachelor buttons and spikes of blue salvia.

In the planter beside the house swirls of white petunias, highlighted by frilly pinks and purples, spiced the air. From a tangle of mud and chookweed, besides the kitchen door a yellow pansy begged to be picked.

As I arranged the remnants into a frosty nosegay, they brought

nostalgic memories of summer—a child's party, a wedding, a bridal shower.

VIVIDLY THEY recalled barbecues on the fancy new grill, and meals on the patio, made memorable by the laughter of children and good conversation with friends. They brought memories of leisurely suppers on the porch, while we admired the clipped and fragrant lowliness of the backyard at twilight.

I thought of the nightly show put on by shy catbirds and brown thrashers, who came to snatch a stray crust of bread from the lordly family of grackles. In my mind's eye I could still see the pair of quail that crept out of the bushes in stocking feet for their share of the booty.

Truly, summer is a time for reminiscing, and while I stood reliving the bright pageants of the waning season, the tranquility was rudely shattered.

SUDDENLY THE air was filled with the whir of wings and the rusty screeching of thousands of starlings and purple grackles. As far as eye could see in every direction every treetop, shrub and telephone wire sagged with the black horde.

For perhaps five minutes they milled about, as restless as a bunch of table-hopping conventioners. Little groups dashed here and there, as though greeting old friends. Committees hurried from

treetop to treetop, working out travel routes or briefing fledgling migrants.

Their chirping and chattering set up an incredible din, which at last reached a fierce crescendo. Then at its very height, as though on signal, they rose as one and left, a noisy feathered cloud moving instinctively southward.

Within minutes not a bird could be seen anywhere. A peculiar silence remained.

THEN AS IF on cue, the sun disappeared and a lowering sky closed down upon the world. The wind rose sharply and veered around to the north, becoming damp and searching. I pulled my sweater close around me and gathered up my bouquet.

Summer was over. Yes, there will be warm days and more of "October's bright blue weather." But mostly now we can expect "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness."

Our instincts may not be as

compelling as the birds', but experience has taught us a thing or two: to think seriously of gray skies, anti-freeze and warm clothing.

And above all, a season of introspection and soul searching.

## County Leads Area In Home Building

Oakland County led the Detroit Metropolitan area in percentage of increase in residential construction in the first nine months of 1964.

The report was released by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission. A total of 6,630 permits for new dwellings were issued in Oakland County through September against 4,962 in the same period in 1963.

Oakland led the area in the number of single family unit permits. The largest increase was in the number of multifamily units which rose from 1,062 to 1,763.

Mrs. Morgan D. Douglas, Jr., 31805 Evergreen Rd., Birmingham, is attending a three-day meeting on admissions at Bennett College, Millbrook, N. Y., today through Friday.

Mrs. Douglas is one of 11 Bennett alumnae from different parts of the United States who will serve on the college's newly created alumnae admissions advisory committee.

Each of the women appointed to the committee is to be an accredited representative of Bennett College for her area. As such, she will be a channel of information for local students, parents, and schools interested in Bennett, a two-year college for young women.

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