

# Beverly Nichols' 33rd Book Offers Delightful Garden Tour

GARDEN OPEN TODAY by Beverly Nichols, Lovers and Mystics, London, 1948; 141 pp.

Reviewed by ALICE BURLINGAME  
Pure pleasure is the worthy description of Beverly Nichols' 33rd book.

Last year Nichols came to Birmingham from England to speak to our two Town Hall audiences, with his devoted coming from all over the state to see this famous author of garden yarns.

When under his spell it is very easy to forget you are reading a book or in an audience. He has a flare for teaching you practical ideas for garden design and plant selection interspersed with riotous stories with human interest.

So, as you delve into "Garden Open Today," you forget that you are in Michigan, and you step in stride with him as you visit his garden, with constant chuckles peppering the occasion.

WHEN HE WAS in Birmingham I had a press interview with him. He is a gentleman of medium height with a round profile. There was the typical broad smile, rosy cheeks and humorous lines in his face.

You would safely say if you met him on West Maple: "There goes an Englishman."

He has his own opinion of Amer-



BEVERLY NICHOLS

ican flower arrangers: "On a recent trip through the States, I have met female floral experts whose treatment of flowers recalled the conduct of a drill-sergeant in control of a squad of raw recruits."

"Roses, one step forward; lilies two paces to the right; dahlias, present arms; camellias, charge."

"I have had the privilege of receiving personal instruction from some of these ladies. It is an intimidating experience."

"ARMED TO THE teeth with pinholders, secateurs and wire netting, they stand beside bushes of the sort of a lecture which a gen-

eral might make to his troops on the eve of an assault."

Referring to garden design, he says, "A garden without water is not a garden at all. Even a backyard should have a miniature water lily in a tub." He gives fine directions for the construction of this detail.

One of the most amusing chapters tells about a method of protecting goldfish in a pond from their enemies, birds and cats. For a long time this question came to him from his readers, and a friend of his who was an air raid warden during the war came up with the best solution of all.

DURING THE WAR he had trained the people under his protection to find a strong-walled place for safety. So he said, "Sink a small metal pipe in the pool which will get matted over so the goldfish can escape into it for protection."

He reported that it gave such a feeling of safety for the fish that there was a population explosion. The pages are filled with tricks in gardening and you wonder why you didn't discover them yourself. Only plant primrose seeds in the fall because the seeds must be fresh to germinate. It takes two to plant a tree; you need a jiggle!

There are new plant varieties to tempt you (easily guided by the "Plant Buyer's Guide," Baldwin Library).

And so we recommend "Garden Open Today" as a tonic for your soul, placed on the bedside table, and certainly for a gardener with a sense of humor, fine or superlative.

## Tourist Events' Schedule Ready

Vacationers traveling to Michigan this spring and summer have a wide choice of activities available according to the Michigan Tourist Council.

Supplementing the state's natural attractions—so popular with out-of-state visitors—are nearly 200 community and regional events staged throughout both peninsulas.

A LISTING OF events occurring from March through September is contained in the council's new spring-summer edition of the Calendar of Events, just released.

Leading off in the March listings are ice and snow events, festivals and carnivals, continuing through the blossom and flower festivals of late spring into the major water events, competition and observances of summer.

Copies of the calendar are available without charge by writing the Michigan Tourist Council, Lansing.

## Stanley Ensemble Will Give Concert On Oakland Campus

The Stanley String Quartet, nationally famous string ensemble of the University of Michigan, will be presented in concert by the Oakland University-Community Arts Council at 8:30 p.m. Sunday in the Gold Room of Oakland Center, Oakland University, Rochester.

Recognized since 1948 for its interpretation of modern and classical chamber music, the Stanley String Quartet has been featured on television and has recorded for Columbia and Contemporary records. The quartet has toured throughout this country and South America.

Tickets for the concert are available at the door.

## BEST SELLERS From

# La Belles

## FICTION

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- The Green
- McCarthy
- The American Admirer
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- The Wagoner's Son
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- The House Of The Fisherman
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## GENERAL

- Profile In Courage
- The Green
- The White House Years: Mandate For Change 1953-1961
- The House Of The Fisherman
- West
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Sources: New York Times Book Review Section, March 9

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JOY ADAMSON

## Author Tells About Elsa, The Lioness

Joy Adamson, who enchanted thousands with her lioness, Elsa, will speak at the Members' Lecture program sponsored by Cranbrook Institute of Science at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday in Cranbrook School auditorium, Bloomfield Hills.

Color films and slides will illustrate how Mrs. Adamson and her game warden husband, George, reeducated their pet for return to life in the bush, where Elsa found a mate, raised three cubs and often brought them back to show off to her human friends.

WHEN ELSA DIED Mrs. Adamson created the Elsa Appeal, a project designed to preserve the wild life of Africa.

Mrs. Adamson is the author of the international best sellers "Born Free," "Living Free" and "Forever Free."

Guest tickets for the lecture will be available at the door.

## Stan Midgley Offers Color Film Program

Stan Midgley will take his avid followers on a trip through "The Glorious Canadian Rockies" in color films at The Community House, Birmingham, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"As part of the current Travel-Film Series being presented here, Midgley plays an important role," states Bob Bogan, Community House executive director.

"His photographer's eye for beauty, coupled with his ability to reach out-of-the-way places, results in outstanding films."

"Midgley is equally well-known for his talented narrative abilities, where he is not only able to convey the feeling of high adventure to his audience, but also puts to good use his keen sense of humor."

THE FILM WILL BE preceded by the film-series dinner, beginning at 6 p.m., for which reservations are requested by today.

Reservations are not necessary for the film, but because of Midgley's popularity The Community House, Bates and Townsend, recommends early ticket purchase to assure seats.

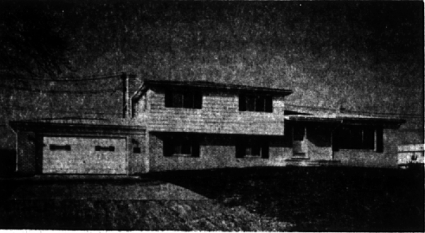
## Three Folk Groups Due at The Raven

Three folk music groups are scheduled within the next few weeks at The Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell.

The Five Jacks will appear Friday through Sunday; opening March 17 for six nights a week through March 29 are The Just IV, from New York; The Greenbriar Minstrels, also from New York, will star March 31 through April 12.

# THE KEATING COLUMN

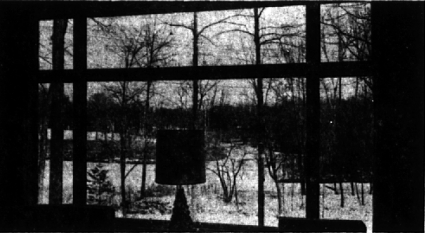
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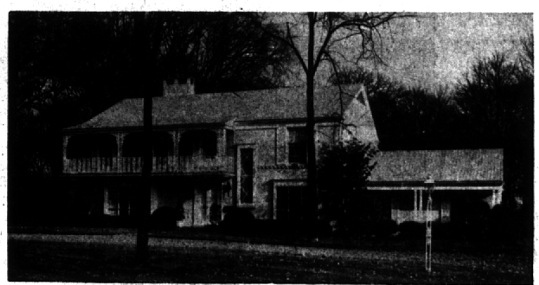
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