



Brush Work by Shari

Shari (Mrs. George) Brush, 1371 Cedar Bend Drive, Bloomfield Township, poses at home before one of her paintings. Works by the self-taught artist are being exhibited in the lobby of the new Woodward-Hunter Blvd. office of Manufacturers National Bank which opened Monday. Mrs. Brush is a member of the Bloomfield Art Association, the Palette and Brush Club and the Detroit Women Painters and Sculptors Association.

WALLOON LAKE: Anyone with even a cursory knowledge of plant and animal behavior is aware of the similarity of these two great streams of life.

Both eat, drink and reproduce their kind. Both are able to select environments presenting conditions suitable for carrying on those activities essential to the successful existence and continuation of their kind.

This morning your scribe elected to visit a nearby bog, always an interesting adventure for the naturalist. Attuned to the unusual, he is willing to brave hot sun, mosquito hoards and wet feet in his quest.

AS IS TRUE of most bogs, this particular plant association occupies the rim of a slowly disappearing pond. Deep layers of sphagnum moss which grow "on top of each other" make spongy floating mats which in time will turn into soil.



Mrs. Frehe is conspicuous among the growth of this unusual habitat are pitcher plants which, unlike most of our flora, trap and eat insects.

The genus is widely dispersed, especially in the moist heat of the tropics; our single species in the Northern United States is named *Sarracenia purpurea*.

This unusual plant presents a rosette of pitcher-like leaves centered with a flower scape 12-18 inches tall. Each of these is a hollow tubular reservoir lined below its scalloped lip with downward pointing hairs. Each holds a small amount of water; a drowning pool for inquisitive ants, mites, flies and spiders which find their way into its dangerous depths.

BOTANISTS BELIEVE that the above insects, carrion eaters especially adapted to the cross-fertilization of the flower, are lured into the pitcher traps by their varie-

gated red coloring which resembles raw meat.

Contained in their liquid pools are enzymes which digest the victims, thereby furnishing the plant with a certain amount of the nitrogen needed for its growth, an element lacking in its sphagnum-made anchorage.

The pitcher plant's floral structure is as interesting during the ripening of the seed as it is during the blooming period in May and June. The five deep pink petals soon drop but the stout red-colored sepals (which resemble petals to the casual observer) remain on the flower stalk all summer.

THE CENTRAL umbrella-like style is green with five ribs and bears its stigmatic surface on the inside. This structure, plus the flower's drooping position and folding petals, protects the ripening pollen from the weather. It is an arrangement which yet affords easy access to the pollinating insect.

Another meat-eating bog dweller which your scribe enjoyed this morning is the round-leaved sun dew, *Drosera rotundifolia*. A very small plant, its rosette of long-stemmed red-rimmed leaves has its upper surface covered with tentacles tipped with tiny drops of a sticky sweet fluid.

FUNGUS GNATS and other small insects attracted by this glistening feast are ensnared by the curling and uncurling filaments. Here their juices are finally absorbed by the plant.

The above carnivorous plants do not live entirely on the "meat" they eat. They yet secure their minerals, water and all except their nitrogenous food from the bog-soil in which they live. One botanist points to their little lives as "astounding culminations of an anatomical evolution."

Surely they are evidence of the

plant's ability to adjust its habits and its structure to a given environment.

ANIMALS HAVE been dining on plants since life began in the ancient seas, but plants that "bite back" are classed in only four families. In addition to the pitcher plant and sun dew families are the equally curious Venus fly-trap and the bladderworts and butterworts.

The first of these, which is found only on the restricted coastal plains of the Carolinas, is the most dramatic of the group. It makes jaw-like traps of its leaves, which are spiny-edged and fold lengthwise to close tight when an slightest insect touches the trigger hairs. Your scribe is making a vacation project of growing several of these plants from recently acquired bulbs.

ON ANY TRIP to our own Wilderness Park, you can find growth in the nearly inundated soil of Wagonshare Point the yellow blossom of the bladderwort, its finely dissected leaves submerged, its naked scape protruding from the water.

This plant feeds on microscopic animal life, which it traps within tiny bladders equipped with valves attached to its submerged roots.

The butterwort, which also attracts insects to its small rosette of chartreuse-green leaves, has an attractive purple flower and belongs to the bladderwort family. It also shares the nitrogen-deficient soil of the Point.

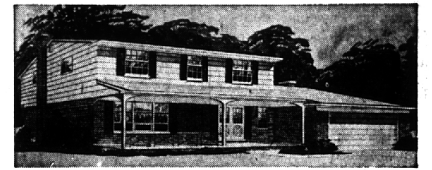
THE ABOVE carnivorous plants demonstrate the close relationship between the animal and plant kingdoms. Both display activities considered to be prerogatives of the former, such as movement, transmission of impulses, and digestion by means of enzymes.

It was a rewarding morning, for in the bog the naturalist finds that which he will see nowhere else.



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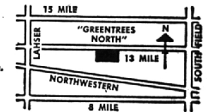
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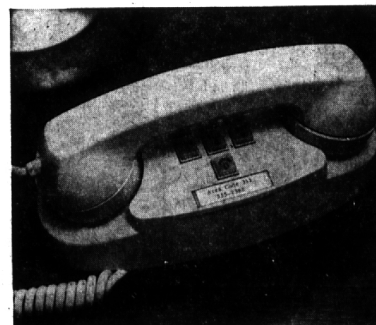
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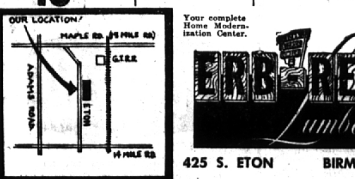
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