

Greenhouse tames winter blasts

Monday, February 26, 1979

(F)7B

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While most Michigan residents are bemoaning the snow and cold, Siglinda Pritchard of Franklin is enjoying every minute of it.

Ms. Pritchard, an Oklahoma native, said, "I don't have any need to get away from Michigan in the winter. I love Michigan all four seasons. Oklahoma has only two—very hot and very cold."

However, Mrs. Pritchard has a built-in secret weapon which can turn winter into a distant, docile time. It's a greenhouse attached to the house, just a few steps down from the dining room with a southern exposure.

STANDING in the greenhouse on a cold February day, Mrs. Pritchard said, "from November through May, it's just glorious in here. A greenhouse during the summer is just maintenance."

She had a number of orchids about to bloom, a seven-foot high pink geranium literally covered with flowers, a group of poinsettias in various shades of red and pink, an angel wing begonia at its prettiest and lots of less identifiable plants and flowers.

The week before, the jade plants bloomed and some of the anthuriums blossomed with showy splashes of brilliant red.

Among the many varieties of plants in this simulated tropical setting, several rank high on the owner's list of favorites, including Rhipsalis, varieties of jungle cactus which look as though they were invented by a modern artist; Tillandsias, air plants which don't need dirt for nourishment and hoyas such as the aptly named Hindu rope.

All of these fall into the exotic category to someone whose plant vocabulary runs to ivy, cactus and philodendron.

While the greenhouse has been a constant source of pleasure to Mrs. Pritchard and her family, her approach to it is refreshingly casual. She said she spends three or four hours a week tending to the plants, has it sprayed professionally in the spring and doesn't worry about a loose bug or two.

"At first, after we had the greenhouse built, I would go berserk over bugs," she said. "Now, I figure they're just part of the ecological balance."

JUDGING BY the way the plants in the Pritchard greenhouse flourish, the bugs haven't come close to taking over. An aspidistra she bought for 59 cents four years ago to plant in a pot with some geraniums is almost six feet tall. A fig tree keeps the Pritchards in



Siglinda Pritchard spends about four hours a week working in her greenhouse and many more just enjoying it while the snow piles up outside.



Pink geranium is covered with buds and blossoms all winter long.

fresh figs for summer breakfasts and the fruits of an orange tree make excellent, tart marmalade for toast or biscuits.

Mrs. Pritchard, an avid herb gardener, has never checked to see what the greenhouse may add in heating and electricity costs.

She doesn't see any point in doing it because, "I don't know what it would be like without it."



This tillandsia came from Bolivia.

Young musicians earn high marks

Instrumental students at Farmington High School came home from the District Solo and Ensemble Festival, sponsored by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, with only the highest of marks obtainable.

Twenty three students vied for a number 1, the highest in the rating scale of 1-4; 13 brought home 1s, and 10 brought home ratings of 2.

What this means to the music department is that the 13 who obtained the highest rating will compete in this year's state competition in March.

Music lovers in the area are invited to hear some of the winning selections, plus music the students will play in the state competition, in a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in Farmington High School. Admission is complimentary.

All of the students who participate in the festival are prepared to play a solo number, with piano accompaniment; or they play in ensemble with one or more other students.

The winners were Bob Carter and Chuck Miliken who played a trumpet duet; Carl Ober and Eric Vetter who played a trumpet duet and Pat Watts who played a trumpet solo.

Flute players who came home with honors are Brenda Lilmatta, Nancy Prochaska and Wendy Randall.

Dan Lochrie and Marianne Daniel played a clarinet and oboe duet, and

Dan Lochrie played a clarinet solo.

Mike Jablonski, Pam Nonen, Sue Schenck and Cabot Wigger made up a saxophone quartet. A string trio was made up of Mary Scheer, Dave Scheer and Wendy Gouine.

Other soloists were Scheer on viola; Tim Kolbasa, marimba; and Marianne Daniel, English horn.

Beer can collectors will meet

Don Bessler, a noted beer can collector, will bring a display of some of the best in his collection to the Farmington Hills Community Library at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

The event is sponsored by the library's Young Adult Department.

"We program events for those from 11 through high school age," said Laureen Bowman, spokesman for the library. "Last year our program on beer cans brought out people from six to 60, so we're prepared for any number that show up."

The library is located at 32737 12 Mile.

Sheila Mitchell an 86 year old survivor of the ocean liner Britannic which sank in 1916, answered a Want Ad placed by Jacques Cousteau who plans to explore the wreck. He wanted survivors to help him find his way around but Mitchell got sea sick when she boarded his research ship.

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