



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

Snow problem this year

I wouldn't mind winter snow, I've said tongue in cheek on more than one occasion, if only it would avoid falling on the streets where I have to drive.

And the white stuff would be okay if it would stay white instead of going sloppy grey to grimy black. I've made that not-to-original remark more than once.

Winter would be less unbearable, I've been known to mention, if it would include a little more sunshine and a little less leaden sky gloom.

The sentiments are honest, although hackneyed. But maybe after an unusual weekend in this unusual winter, I may have to back off — just a bit — from my anti-cold stand.

MOST OF THE TIME, it's my policy to be no farther north than absolutely necessary during the winter months. No point in asking for trouble.

So enthusiastic reports about the fun to be had on a northern outing annually sponsored by my church have left me cold (pun definitely intended). Besides, weekends for me are made for whatever family members are home. Also for chores

The art institute shows its past

The artistic and historical past of the Detroit Institute of Arts is revealed for the first time in an exhibition of objects and documents opening on display Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Thursday, March 27.

The location is as unusual as the event — the third floor Director's Foyer of the Art Institute's North Wing.

"From the Inside: The Archives of The Detroit Institute of Arts 1883-1945" presents primary records illustrating museum history from the Art Loan exhibition to the close of William R. Valentiner's directorship.

The documentary material includes: letters of directors; trustees; artists; benefactors; tradesmen; politicians; manuscripts; handwritten journals; registers; minutes; memoranda; checks; notes; telegrams; postcards; vintage photographs; architectural drawings; posters; portrait busts; portrait panels; paintings; publications; and memorabilia.

Museum is open in spite of mess

Major construction projects now underway at the Detroit Institute of Arts are now making the museum a "wonderful mess."

Grounds torn up to establish a \$2,000,000 public park around the museum have closed the main entrance on Woodward.

Work on the five-gallery, two-story \$1,100,000 Ethnographic Wing has closed off ground floor access within the building to the North Wing. And start of the "Kresge sequence," a \$3,100,000 interior project which will provide expanded dining facilities and a new North-South thoroughfare, has closed the high-traffic Kresge Court cafe and adjacent passageways.

Public and staff alike agree that the future will be wonderful this July when all comes together again in time for the flood of visitors to Detroit during the Republican National Convention.

Meanwhile, the public is urged to visit despite the necessary mess. Use the Farnsworth entrance on the south side of the museum.

Snacks are available at a temporary cafe. Some 90 galleries are still open.

Blue Lake Camp catalog available

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's 1980 catalog is off the press.

The 32-page booklet, the largest catalog ever published by the Muskegon County arts camp, contains information on music, art, dance, choir and theater programs for elementary and junior and senior high school students.

Copies of the 1980 catalog are available by writing Blue Lake, Box A, Twin Lake 49457.

Orchid growers live with beauty

It is delightful to see a husband and wife involved in common hobbies. A visit to the Bosner (Samuel Jr. and Ann) home at 470 Hanna, was very interesting. On the lower level they make airplanes around 4 feet in length, powered with motors. These are flown on a large field along with other hobbies. However, the hobby which captivated me was their collection of orchids.

They have approximately 150 orchids of a collectors caliber "living" in large plastic enclosures, like rooms, where the light, temperature and humidity are controlled. They are displayed on attractive benches, three tiers high.

These nurtured, potted plants are set in pans on stones and turpentine. They are grown cool, but when bud formation is desired, the temperature is raised in the morning. The orchids are exposed to 13 hours of cool, white fluorescent light.

ANOTHER ENTHUSIAST for orchids in the area is Pauline Porter. She is the current president of Birmingham National Farm and Garden Association. Her special interest is the Cattleya species. Off the family room is a 8 by 13 foot greenhouse. There she grows her orchids in bark, and every other watering she gives them Peter's fertilizer.

Her collection enjoys the natural light and she only uses her lights at night when she is viewing them. The temperature is reduced 10 degrees at night to encourage budding. Her greatest dividend is when she cuts the flowers and brings them inside to admire and "live with their beauty."

If a person wishes to specialize in one kind of plant, it is wise to join a national society. The American Orchid Society is in the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 02138. In 1976, the American President



down to earth
Alice Wessels
Burlingame

of the orchid society was Raymond McCullough of Livonia.

McCullough started when he had a small greenhouse at the rear of his home to grow "ordinary plants." He saw a California ad, bought one plant and has since become an outstanding orchid grower.

Al Goldner, one of our outstanding nurserymen, also got the "orchid disease" and has a professional laboratory near Howell where he has a full time scientist who is reproducing rare plants and other varieties by using the meristem system of reproduction.

A SLIVER OF the growing tip is placed in a sterilized container with a special solution. Soon green begins to appear and a new plant is ready to be coddled toward a mature plant growth. Goldner will be attending the world meeting of orchid growers in South Africa.

"The Biology Of The Orchids," Dodson and Gillespie, Benson Printing Company, Nashville, Tenn., is a colorful orchid book for serious growers.

Sale good Feb. 7 thru Feb. 10

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