

Gardeners reap many dividends

A garden interest assures the hobbyist of constant dividends in new paths of knowledge. For instance, James Buckler, horticulturist for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. with his 14 separate structures, came to Cranbrook House to share his adventures with local gardeners.

In 1846 James Smithson of England bequeathed to the United States an estate in Washington D.C. to "diffuse knowledge among men." It is administered by a board of regents, independent of the government. During the years the buildings have grown "like Topsey," in the general area of the initial building. Artistic landscaping wasn't emphasized.

Eight years ago Buckler was appointed the first horticulturist. He has a special interest in Victorian gardens. Under his direction tapestry (mosaic) flower beds with their distinct patterns of designs and colors were developed.


Along with these efforts has been a drive to collect Victorian outdoor furniture with intricate wrought iron patterns. Beautiful Victorian urns with lavish plantings flank most of the exterior entrance ways. These benches and urns, cast aside for modern accents, have been collected from storage basements all over our country.

RECENTLY YOUR COLUMNIST journeyed to the Matthaei Botanic Gardens in Ann Arbor to hear about and eat the food as described by Lorna Sass, an historical cooking consultant. Dr. Sass has written a cookbook of cookery enjoyed in the time of Imperial Rome.

The event was sponsored by the Herb Study Group of the Matthaei Botanic Gardens. They have written a cookbook with recipes adapted to our time in keeping with the wishes of caesars and kings of long ago.

Here are some notes for your dinner conversation. These folks loved cheese with pepper sprinkled on top with honey. Mint leaves were sprinkled on the table and floor to stimulate the appetite. Bunches of roses would be hung over a table meaning that everything said upon the occasion couldn't be repeated. How about having a bunch of roses hung over a bridge table? Drinking too much wine their tongues often behaved loosely.

Menstruans were an important part of the cookery and were often combined with lorage bay leaves, mint, with honey mixed up in the ingredients.



down to earth
Alice Wessels Burlingame

Wine was an important beverage and it was diluted with water and honey. Parsnips were used in cookery with dates. Lima beans were very popular cooked with ground meat. Garlic was only thought proper for the peasants (there are those who still hold that opinion). So you can see that gardening can be fun when you are on the lookout for the dividends.

BY THIS DATE YOU should pretty well know which direction you are going in with garden plans for 1980. Just don't hang on to any plant whether a tree, shrub, or tree which does not give you a plus benefit for your garden area.

You have to weigh maintenance, too. Who is going to keep your lawn and garden area up to prime? There ought to be plenty of helpers around this sea-

son due to the economy. Handle your crabgrass right now. Remember it is an annual and it will spread plenty of seeds another year if you delay using pellets or a spray. Often you can use a control mixed in fertilizer. Scratch up the lawn area with a metal rake which is thin. Sprinkle lawn seed after a week if there has been a rain or two to eliminate the weed poison.

A few leaves on the planting beds will soon decay. Remember they can up grade the soil surface if there is a light sprinkling of leaves. Too much will keep the soil cool, seeds and plants will be held back. Keep that soil open to the sun for an early season push on growth. Mulch plants after July 10.

Make it a habit to use your gardening nature's Dr. Green, whenever you feel stress.

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club circuit

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, West Bloomfield-Farmington Area Chapter, meets for its annual luncheon-meeting Saturday in West Bloomfield's Canopy when new officers are installed.

Speaker for the afternoon is Gordon Lewis, director of Farmington Community Libraries. His talk is called "Future of Free Access to Information in the Technological Area."

JEWISH MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER, Michigan Chapter sponsors "Community Night" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27, in Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills.

The evening program is sponsored by the Men's Club and Sisterhood of the synagogue and is offered without charge. Purpose of "Community Night" is to share information about Jewish Mar-

riage Encounter and the next encounter weekend planned.

SISTERHOOD OF BETH ACHIM meets at 8 p.m. Monday in the synagogue, 21100 12 Mile Road, Southfield. Dr. Maxwell Hoffman will give an educational presentation on hypnosis as applied and used in medicine, podiatry and dentistry.

The group will also hold its election of officers that evening. This meeting is open to all interested persons, without charge.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, in care of Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024 and must arrive on the Monday prior to Thursday publication.

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