



m.m. memos
A picture of a marriage

Eight of us gathered in one tiny room for the party. We sat the door for privacy, then opened it as the air grew close.

Our party was a celebration of 21 years of married life for my father and step-mother. The setting was a room at the end of a corridor in a nursing home halfway up the state.

My step-mother's niece brought along a picture snapped 21 years ago. It showed a smiling couple — a lady in blue still most attractive although past the 70-year milestone, a man with the kindest face I've ever known.

WE LOOKED at them as they posed outside the downtown Detroit church, and we remembered the wedding ceremony that had gone on just before.

It had been an occasion of rejoicing, and two families that were shirtil relatives gathered to make the most of it. There was the widow whose wife had died after a short illness and left him grief-stricken, and there was the widow who had watched her husband die by inches over a long span of years.

His sons and daughter-in-laws and 7 1/2 grandchildren were on hand. She had lost her only child in a tragic accident, but two nieces and their progeny were present.

On that day I remember best the fact

that the man of our house had to take our tiniest daughter out of the room so that her grandfather could repeat his marriage vows. She was back, though, to be carried around by Grandpa all the way through the reception.

I remember too how we talked about the beauty and rightness of these two having found each other. We said the only problem we could see was that one would probably have to go again through the shock of loss.

Twenty-one years have gone by, though, and they still are together, now in a nursing home room. My dad, nearing 90, sees and hears little and walks with an unsteady gait. My step-mother, now 83, walks not at all and sometimes is a bit confused about her memories.

But they sit together and hold hands and still give thanks that they have each other.

SO ON THE DAY of their anniversary party, we visitors brought the refreshments, but they were the main enjoyers. Old fingers held tight to our hands, old palates savored crackers and cheese and old smiles lit up as the nurses came in to look at the 21-year-old picture and comment on how handsome they looked.

It was a bittersweet occasion — one that none of us would have missed.

Some advice for those starting a new business

Attorney Robert J. Essick visits Farmington Branch Library at 7:30 p.m. tonight to talk to persons who are considering starting a new business.

His talk is called "Practical and Legal Consideration in Starting a New Business." The program is without charge in the library on State and Liberty streets.

He will tell his audience how to get money for a business and the advantages and disadvantages of being a sole proprietor, partner or corporation.

He will spell out the reasons for having, or not having an accountant or an attorney. And he will tell of the special help Small Business Administration offers to small businesses in general.

Be on the alert for gypsy moth

The sirens are beginning to ring to alert gardeners against the gypsy moth, which began its Michigan infestation last summer. More than 11 million acres were defoliated in the East last summer. I can attest to their lethal power: I saw acres in the New England area which had been infested.

The gypsy moth has four states of development — egg, caterpillar, pupa and adult moth. The caterpillar is the stage when most of the damage is done. Those caterpillars have blue and red dots on their backs. They can be two inches long. The rasals have a stage called ballooning when they spin silk threads which hang down from the tree branches. Wind carries the caterpillars to nearby trees and shrubs.

Here are some steps you can take to "be in control." In late May and early June, spray with a systemic insecticide which penetrates the foliage. Orthene is a trade name. Sevin also can be used. Repeat if reinfestation occurs.

IN JULY, WRAP burlap around the lower part of a tree trunk to attract



and trap fully grown caterpillars looking for a mating site. Destroy the caterpillar by burning or dipping in kerosene.

As the season progresses, be on the lookout for egg masses. There can be 400 eggs in a mass. Those masses can be on garden furniture, in crevices, on rocks or on the side of your house. Be especially alert, about checking your car, as that offers them a quick way to travel. The only sure way to dispose of an egg mass is to burn it or drop it into a container of kerosene.

Next spring, protect your healthy trees by fertilizing, pruning and watering. Strong trees will withstand an attack and grow another set of leaves,

but repeated onslaughts will kill them. This expose reminds me of the wailing of a hurricane signal, but believe me, it is serious. Be on the lookout, walk your property frequently and help horticultural scientists control this onslaught.

MANY HOUSEHOLDS have had the pleasure of a potted amaryllis plant as a colorful accent for a holiday. Now what do you do when the flowers are through? Cut off the flower stalks. These large bulbs should have only about a half inch of space between the edge of the pot and the bulbs. Only half of the bulbs should be planted in the growing mix of equal parts of peat moss and potting soil. They need warmth to begin to grow, but watch the use of excess water. They like a dark,

warm space when the leaves or buds begin to show. The trick is to go carefully on the water.

After flowering, the bulb will begin to rebuild itself by putting out leaves. Fertilize twice a month. You are building the bulb and only apply fertilizer to damp soil. After the leaves have turned yellow, which sends a message that they are tired and want to rest. Place in a dark area and mist once a month.

In late November, new growth will start to show, then begin the performance all over again.

Recently I heard a talk by Professor Gates of the U-M biological science station, talking about things which affect our weather. Our weather is changing due to more carbon from burning coal and natural gas.

The Greenland ice sheet is melting, which will affect our weather and growing season along with water supply. This is an interesting subject for gardeners to observe with the passing seasons — the cooling of the earth's surface prompts volcano activity and acid rain.

Ideas for teaching music to youth told in center

Creative Music Ideas for teachers, librarians and adults who work with children will be taught by instructor Brenda McDonald in a one-session workshop in Farmington Community Center.

The class will be presented from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, for \$12. Participants do not need a background in music to teach children; through this creative medium. Easy to use materials, ideas for rhythm instruments, use of creative movement and

presenting songs in different ways are adaptable for all.

McDonald will include creative dramatization, using rhythm stories and instruments to dramatize children's literature and music.

McDonald is a preschool specialist and elementary music teacher and writer-director for Whistle-Stop Children's Theatre, an inter-residence project of Bloomfield elementary schools.

Call the center, 477-8404, for registration information.

Scouts thank Diamond

Norma Diamond, a neighborhood service unit chairman for Michigan Metro Girl Scouts, has received the U.S.A. Certificate of Appreciation for her service as an active Girl Scout adult volunteer for the past 12 years.

The Farmington resident has been a junior troop leader, a council trainer and this spring served as the area manager for the Scouts' cookie sale.

She has serving now on the council's assembly nominating committee.



Norma Diamond

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