

Don't be afraid to plant papers

The pile of old newspapers you have in the basement can help you be more productive in the garden this season.

When newspaper is shredded into strips and spread on the soil it can conserve moisture, moderate the temperature and hold back the weed crop. If you are a compost "manufacturer" it will hasten the decomposition of the other ingredients in the pile.

Black and white paper is 75 percent ground wood pulp, and 25 percent purified fiber or cellulose. Newspapers are rich in carbohydrate energy and have been found to be successful by agricultural researchers at the University of Missouri and Cornell. Color printed inserts are to be avoided.

SO THIS YEAR, recycle your newspapers in your garden to control weeds, conserve moisture, enrich the soil and provide a feast for hundreds of well-read earthworms.

A father and son on a farm near Tulsa, Okla., have grown the largest



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

watermelon on record and have been officially welcomed into the "Guinness Book of World Records." Their watermelon weighed in at 219 pounds and five months old. The circumference was 61 1/2 inches. The winners won \$1,000.

Jane Grace specializes in seed which has great promise and is inherently large, and this was the seed they used from her commercial gardens.

If you wish to "join the fun" and perhaps gain recognition, you may wish to get a catalog for ways of growing big specimens from her seed. Grace's Gardens, 10 Bay Street, Dept. 112, Westport, Conn. 06880.

The "Guinness Book of World Records" also represents Grace. I have just enough mischief in my soul to think it would be fun to get some seed and slyly plant it in "Joe Doaks" garden, just like Merritt Olson has been known to create mischief in my garden. Cheer up, I have been known to plant sunflowers out of my smock pocket.

Every year seems to have its horticultural announcement as the result of research. After a flower, fruit or vegetable shows promise in research, it has to be received by the professional judges, then there is a lapse of time until there is a large enough quantity of seed

to announce to the pouncing public. Last year, it was Explorer Seed Potatoes and this year it is strawberries from seed.

The name is Sweetheart Strawberry, a fruit which looks and tastes like a real strawberry. It will provide you with a continual stream of two-inch, super sweet strawberries. They will fruit 130-140 days from sowing. I notice that the Stokes Seed Co., 2043 Stokes Building, Buffalo, N.Y., 14210, have these seeds which are perennials.

IF YOU HAVE a Boston fern in your home collection of indoor plants, maybe you have noticed long scaly threads extending out from the plant. Those scaly threads can help you reproduce your healthy Boston fern. Take a 3 or 4 inch pot and place a loose peat mix in it. Now dampen the peat.

Make a shallow hole with your finger or a pencil. Tuck the scaly thread in the hole, tuck the peat around the thread. Water when necessary and now you will have a plant to share.

NO IFs, ANDs, OR BUTTs.



When you see this sign, make it sure you don't smoke a cigarette out on a rock, or in the dirt. If you are smoking the tobacco and paper in the end, even the smallest living ember left in trash can be alive to start a forest fire.

So when you come across a No Smoking sign, remember, Smokey doesn't want to fire any if's, and's, or butts.

Remember when you sold Girl Scout Cookies?



It's still important!

Artist to autograph books on Saturday

By Corinne Abalt
staff writer

An attractive, soft cover book, "The Art of John Z. Gelsavage," has been published by Valdo Publishing of East Detroit.

Gelsavage will be at the Detroit Historical Museum from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to autograph copies and talk to collectors and friends. The book is priced at \$15.

The artist, born in Old Forge, Pa. in 1909, has spent a lifetime drawing and painting and much of his subject matter shows scenes in and around the Detroit metropolitan area.

While his aura of interest stretched beyond the city, it is certainly an important part of his prodigious output. Gelsavage worked in many aspects of commercial art in the metropolitan area with firms such as Jam Handy, the Detroit Times, the Detroit Daily Mirror, McGraw Hill, Hudsons, Crowley-Milner and the display departments of Chrysler and Chevrolet as well as many others.

Institute of Engineering and Geoson School of Painting.

In the book, his work is divided into six sections: lithographs, portraits, labor history, Detroit city pictures and Asian scenes, sketches, 1928-1946, plus

chapters on life drawing of men and of women.

The book is available at Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Historical Museum, Hudson's Eastland and all Dalton stores.

Anniversaries remembered

The Daughters of the American Revolution urge observance of February as American History Month, October 1981 as the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown, when the British surrendered. This month is the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

As often follows, his work in fine art is well-executed realism. He brings a high level of technical skill and a good eye for line and detail.

Having only been exposed to his work through this book, it wouldn't be fair to comment further on the artistic values of his work. It is fair to say that from the standpoint of illustration, his is a pleasing, traditional style. It is appealing in the choice of subject matter and important, from the standpoint of documentation of a passing way of life.

The artist started as a student of the Washington Correspondence School of Cartooning, later studied at Indiana State Teachers College, Pittsburgh Art Institute, Art Students League, Phoenix School of Design, Pratt, Lawrence Institute of Technology, Chrysler

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