

5 Old Homes Opened

Five century-old private homes in Northville will be open to the public Thursday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Advance tickets for the tour, co-sponsored by the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church and the Northville Historical Society, are on sale at two locations - Banbury Cross, 110 N. Center, and Sunflower Shop, 116 E. Main, both in Northville. The donation is \$2.

Tickets may also be obtained

ed the day of the tour at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main. A bake sale will be held there and a luncheon will be held in St. Paul Lutheran Church from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Homes to be toured include those of James Harris, David Stacey, Harvey Smith, Richard Johns and Robert Coates.

The Harris home on Main Street was built and lived in by the Dubois family around 1880. The Queen Anne style house retains original plank

floors, woodwork, frosted and cut ruby red windows and an old cellar.

The Stacey home is a restored Italian style decorated in a mixture of old and new. The original attic on the third floor has been redecorated and will be open.

The Smith home, once used as a dentist office, was built in 1855. It is an American classic home and changes have been made in the interior, including addition of antiques. It also has an Indian room which contains several

artifacts, some collected and some created by the children.

The Johns home is approximately 90 years old and is furnished with treasures from Greece and England. The basement family room is decorated as an English pub with a Tudor effect.

The Coates home is an historic farmhouse on a hill overlooking Northville. Knotty pine walls have been antiqued and a bottle collection from the Ciskill Mountains and lower Michigan is on display.



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

One of the worst pests of the home garden is the white fly.

Anyone who grows house plants can tell you that white flies can be a real problem on them as well. To date, pesticides haven't been too helpful, but now there is a biological control that really works on white fly, the pest that breeds so profusely it looks like snow. Some even call it "flying dandruff".

In Canada the multi-million dollar greenhouse industry is provided with tiny parasitic wasps which are just plain murder on the white flies.

The embryos parasitise develop on tobacco leaves which are distributed to growers who hang the leaves in their greenhouses after white flies have been noticed.

One grower who has two acres under glass and one acre of plastic greenhouses raises two crops of tomatoes annually writes: "I began using the parasites to control the white fly last year. I never had to spray. I avoided residues and the control worked out well."

Another grower who specializes in succulent, European seedless cucumbers (also attacked by the white fly) says, "I don't have a white fly problem. I found last year that biological control is successful, providing you begin at the right time."

The control insect is Encarsia formosa, a tiny wasp which is the natural enemy of white flies. Biological control is not new. It was known

to Europeans and Canadian researchers some 40 years ago.

White flies are not just a nuisance pest, they can make greenhouse and house plants completely unsalable and unsightly. The white flies literally suck sap from plants and excrete a sticky, sugary substance called "honeydew."

There's nothing sweet about honeydew and the deposit leads to the development of a black, sooty fungus which effectively ruins the sight of plants.

The Encarsia formosa is a creature about 1/40th inch in length and it's almost too good to be true. It's a harmless parasite which doesn't bite humans and doesn't harm plant tissue. It is very specific against white fly upon which it depends completely.

Dr. Robert McManahan is the chief architect in developing biological control in Canada, and is not working with leaf miner parasites. Let's have more work done on developing biological control methods.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC:

"Is there a good method for freezing tomatoes?"

Ans: Try this one which we like: Just remove the stem from ripe and perfect tomatoes, wash and place into plastic bags. Place into the freezer. To use, simply hold under hot water faucet and skin slips off readily. They can be used in almost any way except for slicing.

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