

# Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Last summer I didn't get around to planting the herb garden I bought—which consisted of six packets of seeds and six flower pots, in a bright metal stand.

Well, maybe this year. I'm looking forward to reaping the rewards of six tasty herbs, if they should come up.

Right now I'm enjoying the luxury of a chive plant, bought at the supermarket a few weeks ago. The green chives were already several inches tall and have been growing like a weed, or an herb.

It's nice to scramble breakfast eggs, then with kitchen scissors snip off a few chives for the chopping board and into the frying pan. The fresh chives taste much more mild than the dried kind you buy.

SOME MONTHS back, on a visit to Eastern Market, I selected a small plant primarily because of its bright red decorative "blooms."

A woman standing near told me it was a pepper plant and that the pods are edible; there's always someone at Eastern Market, either shopper or seller, to give you friendly tips.

I took the plant home, and the peppers stayed pretty enough to eat for some time. Not really being a pepper fancier, I just left them where they were for their color. Eventually, they withered.

TWO SUMMERS ago, I bought a potato tomato plant and put it in a redwood planter because Jerry Baker, in "Plants Are Like People," said it could grow one that way on my apartment balcony.

There were already a few green mini-tomatoes on the plant when I chose it at the garden suppliers. One tomato finally turned bright red, although it never got any bigger than golf-ball size.

But you can bet I served it with a flourish, to my favorite company.

How will your garden grow?

# 'Cuckoo's Nest' works in 2 metro productions

By CRAIG REYNOLDS

"You seen one; you seen 'em all." That truism may apply to things like trees and lobsters, but it doesn't hold for different productions of the same play.

A recent case in point was the simultaneous showing of Dale Wasserman's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre and Wayne State University's Bonstelle.

Both productions sold out almost every performance, both entertained predominantly youthful audiences new to the playhouses, both employed younger actors; but exact similarity stopped at the ticket price.

THE AUDITORIUM at Ocella Merrill Turner's school on Long Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills seats 90 "if we stuff it," while the old Bonstelle at the fringe of downtown Detroit holds 1,100 patrons comfortably.

The size of the Bonstelle Theatre is matched in magnitude by the scenery budget and technical facilities, but Will-O-Way gets by with one basic set for an entire season and scarcely a dozen lighting instruments.

The views of the directors are as dissimilar as their playhouses. "It's the story of the Christ," said Mrs. Turner of the stage adaptation of Ken Kesey's popular novel. She went on to point out Biblical parallels in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," from the lead character McMurphy

upsetting the regimen of a mental institution through his temptation to follow the hateful rules to his final self-sacrifice for his buddies in the ward.

"We have to fight the little gods who set themselves up in clubs, churches, schools," she concluded from the play.

"THE GOOD HIPPIE versus the bad brood," was director Robert T. Hazzard's earlier analysis for the Bonstelle version. Hazzard's argument to produce the show this year was also more pragmatic: "I knew it would sell."

Both directors attributed the astounding success of their productions to the immense popularity of Ken Kesey's 1962 novel about life in a state mental institution and the conflict between the incorrigible inmate McMurphy and the domineering Nurse Ratched. Both directors believed their own playhouses provided the right ambiance for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

"It's so melodramatic, it needs a big proscenium house and some distance, otherwise the flaws in the script would jump out," Hazzard said.

Mrs. Turner maintained the smaller space at Will-O-Way added to the impact of the play by creating greater empathy for the characters on stage and assisting concentration on what was being said.

Mrs. Turner said, "It's funny about plays—they reach a ripeness. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" will never wear out."

HAZZARD CITED flaws in "...the predominantly 1960's picture of life..." as well as the several fistfights in the script. "A year from now, the cast might think the play's rotten; right now, it's a hit."

Casts and casting differed markedly between the Bonstelle and Will-O-Way. About 100 people auditioned for the Wayne State production; "I had three complete casts," says Hazzard. He finally decided to utilize graduating seniors almost exclusively.

Ocella Merrill Turner's students competed for roles in open auditions at Will-O-Way. "It's best for the play—and the students," she asserted. "I teach them the hard way, against all corners."

An American Indian with a Polish surname played Hazzard's Randle Patrick McMurphy, while John Witusz of Mrs. Turner's company fit the role better physically with reddish hair and scraggly beard.

At Wayne State, acting students are required to audition for and accept roles in Bonstelle productions, thereby insuring some variety and flexibility in casting.

AT WILL-O-WAY, jobs and families must be taken precedence over productions. On closing night, the supporting role of Chief Bromden had been filled by an actor with one week's notice, and another actor in a minor part was new to the show that very evening.

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