

Down to earth

Shifting gears in wintertime

Well, folks, we have to admit that winter has arrived to take its place in the garden calendar. In this column we will just change gears.

Hold off on trimming any of your evergreens until the day you would like to use them for a holiday trim. Those who identify with children's projects or remember the homebound might like to try this idea.

Take a baking size potato and level it with a paring knife so it sits flat. Wrap this potato with aluminum foil. Set it flat and with a screw driver make a hole through the foil and potato (half through). Insert a terminal cutting of a spruce which might be 1/2" high. Trim it with small bits and pieces to please. If making it to give to a patient have the material in a plas-

tic bag and have the receiver have the pleasure of putting it together. It will remain in prime condition due to the moisture within the potato.

Readers telephone me and ask for books appropriate for holiday giving. Here are some that can't miss pleasing the receiver.

GROWING UP GREEN. Skelley and Huckleby. \$4.95. Is ideal for the parents who garden (or should) with their children. It is loaded with fine ideas. I contend every elementary teacher should possess the book, then use it.

BASIC GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. A Sunset Book, \$2.45. Is the best book for the money on "meat and potatoes" gardening. It is excellent to always have on the

shelf for quick reference. Many, many illustrations are on every page. Indoor and outdoor gardening are included in this super book.

LOW MAINTENANCE GARDENING. Sunset, \$1.95. This book for specific garden designs for every part of the country. They all look like you could use the ideas for handkerchief gardens outside apartments, or patios using Michigan material.

ORGANIC GARDENING UNDER GLASS. George and Katy Abraham, \$8.95. This book makes you chuckle as the solving of problems looks so easy. White fly likes the color yellow so you make some yellow plastic strips,

smear molasses on the strips which are stuck in the pots and the



By
ALICE
WESSELS
BURLINGAME

white flies get stuck in the molasses.

How about that? The book is filled with goodies for the greenhouse or home plant grower. I know Mr. Abraham personally and he is a very successful commercial greenhouse owner. He also has **The Green Thumb Book of Indoor Gardening**, \$6.95. He knows what he is writing about and in the latter book you will enjoy **Plants For Food And Fun**.

A very fine new magazine on the market is **Plants Alive**, 1255 Portland Place, Boulder, Col., 80302, one year, \$9. This is a quality publication with an emphasis on the indoor growing of unusual plants with unusual procedures.

If you have a plant enthusiast on your gift list they will be ever grateful for any of the above choice books. I prize them in my horticultural library.

Christmas Workshop at North Church

All North Church members and friends are cordially invited to attend a Family Christmas Workshop at noon, Sunday, Dec. 7, at the church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

A light lunch will be served for 75 cents by the P.F. Groups in the Fellowship. Following this, the Poverty Players will perform Thornton Wilder's "The Flight Into Egypt," a three minute play.

The Senior High P.F. will read, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss.

Several projects will be available for ages four through adult priced to cover cost, beginning at 10 cents.

Mrs. Elise Schwem, professional greens decorator, will work with those who wish to make centerpiece, swags and wreaths.

Babysitting will be provided for children under age four. Cartoons will be shown for those not interested in making a project.

Reservations may be made by calling Betty Neilson at 682-4433.

Service awards presented by PWP

Bill Kenzie, president of Southfield-Lathrup Parents Without Partners, recently presented presidential awards to four members for outstanding service.

The ceremony was held at the Eastern Michigan Regional Council Conference which met earlier this month.

The four are Milton Sykes, past vice president and advisor, Tom Thompson, family activities director, Mary Lou Salranski, board member in charge of member services, and Claudette Lapointe, adult activities director.

Parents Without Partners is a non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization concerned with single parents and their children. The Southfield-Lathrup chapter meets at 8:30 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield.

Spring Arbor ORT sets bingo party

Spring Arbor Chapter, Women's American ORT, has scheduled a "Bingo Night" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Franklin Park Towers Clubhouse, 27350 Franklin Road, Southfield.

Refreshments will be served and many door prizes will be awarded. Donation is \$1 per person and tickets may be purchased at the door.

For additional information, contact chairperson Corrine Denenfeld at 531-3945.

NOW to hear chamber music

A program of chamber music will be presented by the metropolitan Detroit chapters of the National Organization of Women Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. in the home of Dorothy Smith, 18115 Birchcrest, Detroit. Admission is \$5 per person with proceeds going to the support of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

For ticket information contact Janet Antline, 5111 Kenilworth, Dearborn.

give them games to play

and watch them while away the hours.

A. The game of dominoes for all ages.

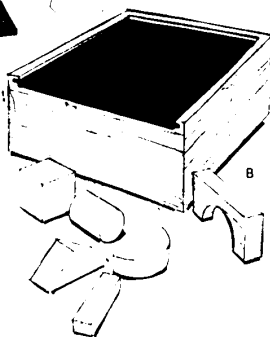
11"x2" storage box contains 55 dominoes, color coded so that a young child may play and learn numbers by matching colors.

Instructions are included. 7.50

B. Shape sorting box with 30 smooth finish wood pieces. Each hole in the top accepts only blocks of corresponding shape. Ages

1 1/2 to 3 years sort and choose, learning to

select the right shapes. 7" sq. box. \$7



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In Detroit, Monday and Tuesday, December 8 and 9.
Informal modeling from 11 to 4, Regency Room.

Inimitably, inevitably, Adolfo has sensed the moment for the exotic in the most modern terms, with Moroccan-inspired tunics making a play for evening over pants, hand-embroidered with scrolls of silk soutache braid. The newest, and loveliest, way to have all the ease of trousers with all possible chic. His pared-down Moroccan caftans flash strong color—scarlet, corn yellow, purple, apple green or black—to contrast the bright white pants. In soft and supple silk and wool crochet. Enjoy the holiday sensation with his striking ways to look, after the sun goes down or in sunny climates. In long and short cocktail and dinner dresses in subtle pale gray, hand-sparkling with hand-appliqued jewels. Flirting bare backs, braided halter necklines and long, pleated skirts. Bare tops with thin straps worn with pants; or hidden under crochet capelets.

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