



MRS. HERBERT NEAL has a fascinating assortment of exotic house plants. (Evert photo)

How Mrs. Neal Grows Exotic Plants Indoors

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Mrs. Herbert Neal's thumb is an especially bright and glowing shade of green.

Not only is she an ardent naturalist, but she's a great horticulturist. In her Farmington Township woodland garden, she coaxes into bloom dozens of kinds of rare and delicate wild plants. Indoors, she has transformed the Neals' family room into a veritable garden.

Long low tables plus a bench give the sitting picture window have been fitted with specially constructed water-proof metal trays. These are laden with a fascinating assortment of houseplants — geraniums, begonias, bird-of-paradise, wax-plant, bamboo palm, Christmas cactus and many other kinds of exotics. Something is always in bloom.

Mrs. Neal is particularly pleased with the large, lovely blooms on her amaryllis, which she raised from a tiny bulblet the size of a small bean. She has been growing it for eight years. Last year was the first it bloomed. The bulb has now grown to about four inches in diameter and has produced several small offshoot bulbs.

THE STRAP-LIKE foliage is fresh and graceful all year and has been attractive even when the plant was not blooming. Now, with pale coral and chartreuse colored trumpet-shaped blooms, it is outstanding.

Mrs. Neal's amaryllis is planted in a clay pot which has

been set into a small Italian straw basket. The bulb, planted in humus-rich woodland soil, is in position so the top half of the bulb is exposed.

She waters the amaryllis, as she does all her plants, with collected rain water or melted snow, and feeds it with a rapid acting plant food she dissolves in the rain water.

FLOWER PRODUCTION reduces the size of the bulb, so as soon as the flowers fade feeding with the fertilizer liquid should begin. Also, for the best flower production, the experts recommend that bulbs that have bloomed be given a resting period beginning in late summer.

At that time, the plants should be exposed to full sunlight, but water should gradually be withheld until the leaves yellow and fade. Then watering is stopped completely and the bulbs should be stored, still in their pots, turned on their sides. Store in a cool but not freezing place. Fifty-degree temperature is ideal.

In winter at the end of the resting period, repot the bulb. Scrape some of the old soil away from the roots and put it into a pot only slightly larger in diameter than the bulb. Use a pot that has good drainage, and use a rich porous soil, working it down around the bulb, but leaving the top half of the bulb above the soil.

Water sparingly until growth begins. Plants bloom more quickly if they are kept in a warm place.

Mrs. Neal's amaryllis should grow larger and lovelier each year and continue to thrive for many years.

ANOTHER CONVERSATION piece that Mrs. Neal is displaying these days is an odd and unusual plant called "devil's tongue," which has a strange, exotic flower similar to an over-sized calla lily bloom.

Botanically, this native of Indo-China (Vietnam) is known as *Amorphophallus rivieri*, or by some authorities as *Hydnora rivieri*.

The large bulb, a gift from her neighbor Dr. Donald Hodges, began sprouting just before Christmas. A thick purple and green mottled stalk, shot up so quickly growth was almost visible. The pale purple and green flower spathe with the deep maroon red spadix unfolded by mid-January. At that time, the flower stalk was about four feet high and it hasn't browned, any taller since then.

Eventually the flower will wither and the stalk will die down. Later, another stalk will grow, this topped by three palm-like branching, segmented leaves.

THE DEVIL'S tongue is a member of the Arum family to which belong many other tropical plants which are used as houseplants. Best known are the philodendrons, but also included are calla lilies, caladium, anthurum, dieffenbachia, and the plant called Chinese evergreen.

Also in this family are such North American native plants as water arum, jack-in-the-pulpit, and skunk cabbage. The leaf shapes are exceedingly varied, and the plant forms vary from low and fleshy to waxy, high-climbing vines. All, however, have flowers shaped much like the blossom on Mrs. Neal's devil's tongue.

Despite its showy bloom and exotic foliage, this plant is not destined to become a popular house plant because the flower emits a most unpleasant odor.

New President At Bathey Mfg.

Active leadership of Bathey Manufacturing Co. of Plymouth has transferred from the man who founded it 22 years ago to Richard C. Schurch of Livonia, formerly chief executive vice president.

Schurch, 43, has been named president and chief executive officer of the company Jan. 30, succeeding Douglas Bathey, who assumed a less active role as board chairman and marketing consultant.

Bathey founded the company in 1948. Since then it has become the largest manufacturer of life containers in the world and added automotive stampings, stamp assemblies

and vacuum form plastic parts to its line.

Bathey maintains residences in Northville and Naples, Fla.

The company, located at 100 S. Mill, Plymouth, currently employs almost 400 persons. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of HITCO Manufacturing of California, which recently merged with ARMCO Steel.

HITCO Board Chairman Robert M. Daiss announced the appointment of Schurch, who lives at 16665 Golfview Drive, Livonia, with his wife and three children.

Schurch attended Henry Ford Community College,

Church-State Group Sets Conference

A two-day conference of Americans United For Separation of Church and State, a national organization, will explore patchwork, religion in the schools and Michigan's tax reform proposals Monday and Tuesday.

To be held at the Detroit Hilton Hotel in Detroit, Monday, Feb. 9, and Tuesday, Feb. 10, the conference will feature four outstanding personalities.

Former State Schools Superintendent Ira W. Polley, who resigned under pressure of the state board of education, will keynote the Monday session.

Mrs. Marietta Phillips, state president of Citizens to Advance Public Education (CAPE) will speak at 2 p.m. Monday. On Tuesday speakers will include Ernest W. Naez, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Franklin C. Salisbury, chief legal counsel to Americans United.

Subjects of the convention will be:

- What price parochialism?
- Religion in the schools.
- How tax reform will affect the churches.

The Detroit chapter of the American United, under national president Glenn L. Archer of Washington, D.C., is sponsoring the conference.

Accountants Meet Feb. 12

The Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Accountants will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Pickford Hotel on Thursday, Feb. 12.

Preceding the meeting there will be a small business seminar at 4:30 followed by a fellowship hour at 5:45, dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.

Speaker will be Dr. Bernard F. Landis, dean of the College of Commerce and Finance of the University of Detroit. His topic will be "The Mystique of Leadership."

The meeting marks the beginning of the chapter's 50th year. Organized in 1920, it is one of the oldest of some 220 chapters in the United States, and its current membership of 1,400 makes it the second largest chapter, directly behind New York.

Among America's 65 astronauts, 54 were once active in the Boy Scouts.

FAMILY ROOMS ADDITIONS from \$1,585 REC. ROOMS

INCLUDES ELECTRICAL HEATING, PANELING, PLASTERING, PLANS, PERMITS, COMPLETE JOB

ZA-LO Bldg. Co. 24-Hour Service 27420 Jay Road GA 5-2333 KE 8-1122



GOING SKIING?

WE DO THE DRIVING WITH THE MOST COURTEOUS DRIVERS

REASONABLE RATES

FOR INFORMATION CALL 349-1333



RICHARD C. SCHURCH
Livonia Promoted

Standard Fed Hikes 3 Rates

Standard Federal Savings & Loan Association, which has two offices in Redford and one in Livonia, has announced three new higher interest rates on certificate savings.

A new 67 two-year certificate savings account requires a deposit of \$5,000 or more. Also offered is a new 5.75% one-year certificate account which requires a deposit of \$1,000 or more.

A 5.25% six-month certificate account requiring \$1,000 or more is also being offered.

Interest on all three types of certificate savings accounts is paid and compounded quarterly, on March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 and Dec. 31. Money can be withdrawn from certificate accounts at any time with no advance notice.

The withdrawn funds in the two-year and one-year accounts will lose 90 days interest, but the amount left on deposit, provided it is the minimum required, will continue to earn the higher rate.

Epstein Heads Engineers

An Oakland County resident is the new president of the Society of County Engineers (SCE) of Wayne County.

Philip Epstein, a Farmington resident with the Wayne County Road Commission, was elected president.

Other officers are Donald K. Compton of Lincoln Park, vice president; James P. Hafner of Detroit, secretary; and Charles D. Lynch of Detroit, treasurer.

Two directors elected for three-year terms are Thomas F. McNulty of Redford Township and Roger E. Dinsmore of Livonia.

An area man serving an unexpired term as director is William G. Walker of Livonia.



TRAVIS D. NIXON of 14048 Levan, Livonia, has been named assistant to the president of Halcraft Co., Livonia-based manufacturer of industrial heat treating equipment. Nixon has a B.S. degree from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree in business administration from Xavier University, Cincinnati. He joined Halcraft in 1968.

Bus Drivers Say 'Thanks'

Farmington school bus drivers voiced their appreciation for the neighborly assistance given them by residents of Old Homestead Subdivision during recent icy days.

When two of the buses got stuck in ice and snow, mothers appeared with salt bags and shovels to get them rolling again. The drivers say a hearty "Thanks."

Photo finisher Promotes Pair

Two area residents have been named to key posts at Gold Seal Photo Service, Plymouth, according to Frank Kierdorf, branch manager.

Harold Keenan, of Plymouth, has been appointed plant manager. William Luke, of Milford, is the new sales manager.

Keenan, a seven-year veteran of the company, will fill the post left open by John Banks, 4284 N. Territorial, Plymouth, who is retiring after nearly 25 years.

A graduate of Eastern High School, Detroit, Keenan lives at 40874 Ivywood Lane.

As plant manager, Keenan will be in charge of all plant operations, including production coordination and employee supervision. He has some 20 years' experience in the photo-finishing field.

Luke will direct sales efforts of the company in southern Michigan, as well as in northern Ohio and Indiana. His appointment is part of Gold Seal's plan to expand service to drug stores and camera shops in the three-state area. He has a background of 11 years in photo-finishing sales.

National Can Pays Dividend

The board of National Can Corp., which has a Plymouth

plant, has declared cash dividends of 20 cents per common share and a regular 37.5 percent preferred preferred share. Both are payable March 1 to holders of record at the close of business Feb. 13.

The rocket engines of the Apollo space vehicle contain some 40,000 pounds of nickel in alloy form. Nickel-containing fuel cells provide electrical power.



HAROLD KEENAN
Plant Manager

Futuremill To Exhibit

Futuremill, 23400 Halstead Rd., Farmington, will exhibit its products in the seventh annual WESTEC, the Western Metal and Tool Exposition and Conference, to be held in Los Angeles March 9-12.

WESTEC is sponsored annually by the American Society for Metals and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. The exposition is expected to attract more than 38,000 engineers and manufacturing executives. Over 60 exhibitors will display \$12 million worth of industrial equipment.

PINE
LUMBER CO., DIV.
12222 Inkster Road
OPEN
SUNDAY
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon. - Tues. - Wed.
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs. - Fri.
9 - 6

LOOKING FOR THAT NEW HOME ? IN A CLOSE-IN AREA . . .

• Within Walking Distance of Schools, and Low Taxes? We have it!

In South Redford Township, Colonias, 3 and 4 Bedrooms, With: 1 1/2 Baths, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Pantries, Dishwashers, Custom Kitchen Cabinets and Vanities, Central Gas Heating Systems prepared for Central Air Conditioning, Hardwood Floors, Central Flyers, Patios, plus many more fine features. Choice of Elevations. Excellent Traffic Patterns.

MODELS AT 9376 ARNOLD 4 blocks east of Beech Daly, north of W. Chicago. Other Homes and Homesites Available in Inkster and Westland. Show for immediate occupancy.

F.I.A. TERMS AVAILABLE
SALES BY W. R. HARTMAN REALTY CO.
Open Saturday and Sunday 1-6 p.m.
TIPTON BUILDERS, Inc. 278-1560

Chug over to AMERICAN
for old fashioned buys

Look what we've got for you this time . . .

RAILROAD SPIKES
Authentic
Rusted, good for power
weights, replace your iron

PRESTO LOGS
Reg. \$1.49
Now only **88¢**

FIREPLACES
LARGEST SELECTION OF
FIREPLACES, ACCESSORIES AND
WALL DECOR IN MICHIGAN

**FIREPLACE WOOD
KINDLING WOOD**

USED NAIL KEGS
CASH
CARRY **39¢**
All Sizes
WOODEN BARRELS
up to 250 gal.

FREE 1970 FARMER'S ALMANAC
Yours for the asking -
153rd consecutive year of
publication.

2" THICK BUTCHER BLOCK TABLE TOPS

Blocks, tops and cutting boards are all made of Michigan maple selected hardwoods laminated on edge with true resin bonded laminations and concealed bolts. The exclusive new homes all have them.

48" x 30"	reg \$59.95	\$24.00
60" x 30"	reg \$69.50	
72" x 30"	reg \$84.50	

CHEESE BOARDS 9" x 12" x 1/2" thick **\$3.88**

WE'VE GOT 'EM . . .
Old fashioned SCHOOL DESKS
FREE FOR THE ASKING . . .
Reg. \$1.69 Barbecue and Grill Cleaner
Specials in the lumber dept. . . Shop and See!

You'll love shopping American style
American
HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO.
31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD at MERRIMAN in LIVONIA
Phone 476-5240 or 537-2645 • Lots of Free Parking

Open Daily, 8-6
Sat. 8-3:30, Sun. 10-4

READY-TO-FINISH FURNITURE

LADDER BACK CHAIRS
from **\$12** up

Also see our complete selection of fine furniture for every room in your home. All fully assembled, smoothly sanded. Ready to finish, paint, stain or varnish.

Accents the natural wood beauty of paneling, woodwork, furniture and trim.
O'BRIEN PAINTS

Please Paint & Wallpaper Co.
670 South Main Street
Plymouth
Phone: GL 3-5100