

1980 wines may fall below expectations

Thursday, March 19, 1981

(F)13C

This truth-in-advertising thing can be carried a bit too far. Take the case of the David Bruce winery, never known to underestimate the value of its wines. The winery recently issued an unusual promotional flyer. Among the wines, a 1976 Monterey was described like this, "Stinky vegetable nose, good

tannin lacking any depth of flavor or Cabernet character. A vineyard that should have been planted to artichokes. Worth every penny we are asking for this nearly worthless wine. Quantity purchases and discounts encouraged."

The price? An unheard of \$12 a case at the winery — less than Bruce

charges for some single bottles. Any one else tempted?

Reviews of the 1980 harvest season are now pouring in from California. It is, of course, impossible to evaluate the quality of the crush until the wines attain drinkability, but that never seems to prevent educated forecasting. (This is similar to reading projections by baseball managers of how well their teams will do in the coming season.)

CONSENSUS SUGGESTS that the 1980 crush will be better for whites than reds. An excellent spring was followed by a long, cool and wet summer in most regions, and much fear was expressed by late August.

Then came a monstrous heat wave in mid-September and normal ripening exploded all over. In many cases, for example, Cabernet and Chardonnay were harvested in the same week although they are usually four to six weeks apart.

Acid and sugar levels fluctuated dramatically during this time, and it seems reasonable to speculate that many grapes were picked after they should have been. There should be some amazing wines, but the botrytised wines won't be frequent.

FINAL FORECAST — a variable crop, ranging from decent to somewhat above average, clearly not the greatest year that was talked about last June.

Late last year two fine little known

volumes were released, both of which can be wholly recommended. Published by Knopf, one is called, "The Connoisseur's Handbook of California Wines." Readily available in most book outlets and some wine stores, it is a pocket guide by the authors of the publication "Connoisseur's Guide to California Wines" along with Norman Roby. There are sections on California geography, grape varieties, California wineries as well as other American grape-growing areas, a glossary and many other sections.

In addition to being well written, the reviews tend to be remarkably candid. While some of their positions appear more valid than others, the insights tend to be fair and stimulating. Costing less than a bottle of average wine, it's a real keeper for browsing, reference work or as a travel guide.

The second issue is by the very classy William Kaufman and costs even less, \$3.95. It is the "Pocket Encyclopedia of California Wine," published by the Wine Appreciation Guild of San Francisco. Available locally, it contains much information of wineries, grapes, regions (with maps) and terms. There is also the inevitable vintage chart and the 1980 Orange Count Fair results. Very comprehensive, Kaufman even includes Grover Gulch and Storybook Mountain in his reviews. Excellent little guide.

Decorator pillows to be made in workshop

Peggy Freeman brings a decorator pillow class to Farmington Community Center at 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 23, with her particular spark of imagination.

Mrs. Freeman offers many years of expertise in a varied array of sewing projects to her Farmington Community Center classes. In this class, students will create a handsome accessory pillow to add dash to any room. Fee is \$6 plus materials.

Registration information is given by calling the center, 477-8404.



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Christian Science lecture set March 24

First Church of Christ, Scientist of Farmington, hosts Betty Ann Ridley, who will give a lecture called "Discover Your Relationship With God," at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the church, 3825 Grand River.

Referring to Christ Jesus' parable of the search for the "pearl of great price," she believes that many persons today are on a spiritual search looking for a better view of themselves.

Mrs. Ridley, a Christian Scientist from Oklahoma City, Okla., describes how her own spiritual search deepened following a healing, through prayer, of the after-effects of polio some years ago.

She is a graduate of Scripps College, Claremont, Calif. While her three children were growing up she was involved in educational television programming for children.

In 1973 she began to devote her full time to the Christian healing practice of Christian Science. She was recently appointed to the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.



BETTY ANN RIDLEY

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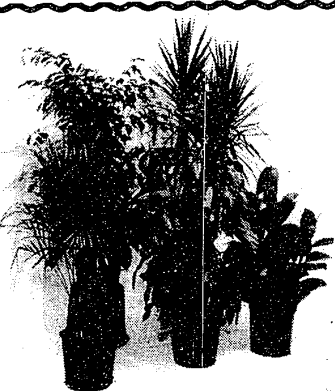
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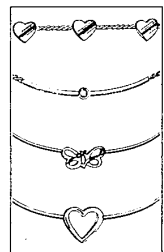


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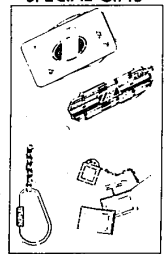
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