

'Instant Lawn' Production Is Booming

Green grass is not only pretty, it's profitable. Michigan, with its \$72 million sod industry, leads the nation in sod production. The industry that makes a business of producing "instant lawns" has been on a steady climb from less than 1,000 acres grown in 1955 to 22,000 in 1968. Excellent soil and climatic

conditions are the chief reasons for success of the industry, according to James Beard, Michigan State University turf-grass researcher. Economic factors such as high wages, continuous construction and accessibility to major population centers of the Midwest also influence the sod industry, Beard said. Michigan

sod growers are within 12 hours trucking time from a significant portion of the growing U.S. population. "The long-ranged future of the industry looks good," said Beard. "But the problems of producing and marketing sod should be studied carefully before anyone decides to go into sod production."

HERE ARE SOME OF THE RECORD SETTERS WILL BE SHOOTING AT THIS YEAR AT HUNTER POINT



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Lower Huron Nature Center Now In Bloom

The seasonal nature center at Lower Huron Metropolitan Park, 12 miles south of Plymouth near Belleville, is now open on week-ends, and the colorful redbuds are in bloom along the parkway. The flowering redbud, white dogwood, junberry trees and various wildflowers are also in bloom throughout the park and along the park's nature trails. Visitors may observe these colorful shrubs while driving through the scenic park along Metropolitan Parkway from Hannan Rd. to Wals Rd., within the 1,000 acre site. The picturesque flowers should remain in bloom through Sunday, June 19 or longer.

ONE OF THE POPULAR attractions at the park this time of year is the seasonal nature center. Several exhibits of natural science are on display. Children especially like to feel the animal pelts of stuffed species and to play the matching games to identify the correct names with the approp-

riate pictures of various animals or wildlife.

Nature Center hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The same hours will be in effect during the four-day Memorial Day week-end and daily during the summer months starting Saturday, June 8.

THE PAW PAW and Bob White nature trails are open for self-guided hikes and wildlife (A labeled for easy identification). A map showing the location of the nature trails and facilities is available without charge by writing to Lower Huron Park Map, The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 1750 Guardian Building, Detroit, Mich. 48226.

More than 78,400 persons have visited the nature center at Lower Huron Metropolitan Park since it opened in the spring of 1963, with over 21,600 visitors during 1967 from May through October. Usage has more than doubled since the 10,300 visitors first used the center six years ago.



IT STARTED WITH A WOMAN

While fishing is usually thought of as a man's sport, the first fishing expert was really a woman.

A printing of a bit of outdoor writing penned on parchment around fourteen twenty-five has been credited to a sweet little English nun named Dame Juliana Berners.

Juliana was born of a royal family in England and did some fishing and hunting as a girl with some of her sporting cousins and friends. Later on, she entered a nunnery at St. Albans and wrote the first known works on fishing.

Juliana wasn't any slouch concerning the art of angling, say the fishing experts at Mercury Outboards. For instance, here's how she recommends making a fishing rod.

First, you cut a smooth six-foot staff of willow or aspen. Heat it in an oven, get it good and straight, and let it dry for four weeks. The next trick is to get a piece of plumber's wire, heat it red hot, and burn a hole clear through the staff. Then store it in a smokehouse for a while.

Now you take a stroll in the woods and cut a slender slip of hazel the same length. Soak it thoroughly, straighten it out, and let it dry in the smokehouse too. The next step is to trim the hazel whip so it can be inserted into the butt section. Now, fashion a metal pin to hold the two together, and you have a two section fishing rod.

Juliana advocates such a two section rod because it forms a good walking staff for a Sunday afternoon stroll, and can easily be transformed into a fishing rod if you happen by a good fishing hole. For a line, Juliana advocates the long horsehairs woven together and colored with a mixture of ale, crushed walnut leaves and alum. Such a line, she says, blends with the water and fools the fish more readily.

In her tips for anglers she recommends not casting a shadow on the water, fishing below waterfalls or in deep pools, fishing when the wind is west and using a wire leader either out of the south or the when fishing for pike.

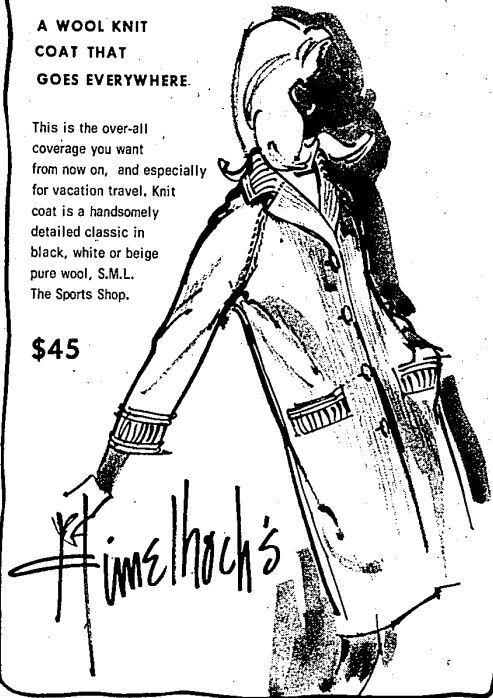
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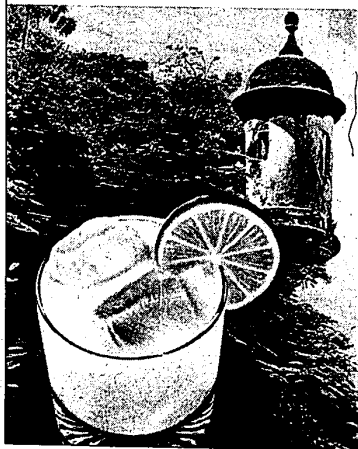
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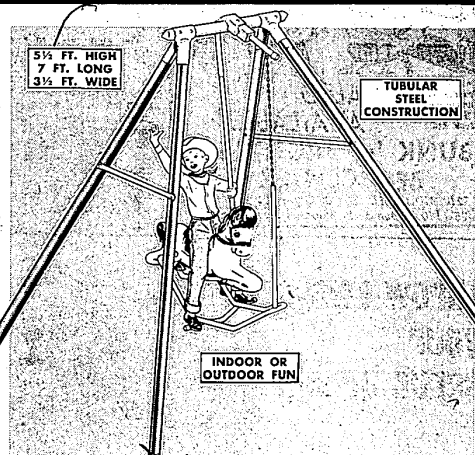
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