

# A COUNTRY GARDEN

"Late February days: and now, at last, might you have thought that Winter's work was past; so fair the sky and so soft the air." Sometimes February hands out a day so balmy, so tender, so full of promise of even better things to come, that we instantly forgive and forget the really bad weather that has preceded and will doubtless follow. Who knows the language of the sun, who knows the strings of rain, and visualizes barren earth a tawny sweep of grain has a knowledge of a magic sympathy that foretells the beauty in a seed. Gardeners have this knowledge when on wintry days they begin their garden work with bulbs and seeds.

Begonia bulbs have been cleaned and planted for early bloom, and looking over last year's diary I found that last year they were planted on the same date. Always I am amazed that the seasons have been as usual in gardening for many years. The same tasks at the same time.

The old bulbs of the tuberous begonias have been wintered in the boxes in the cellar and were cleaned of old roots then placed on moist sand, and kept damp to root in a warm place. At intervals for several weeks these bulbs are planted for continuous color and beauty in pots and planted out in the garden. They are very suitable for shaded, sheltered corners of the garden and are much admired by garden visitors.

New bulbs can be obtained now from our Memorial Nursery at a small price in many lovely colors that different color combinations are easily planted bringing variety and charm to the garden.

When these bulbs can be kept from year to year they are a good thrifty garden investment and much joy obtained from even a few of these gorgeous flowers. In this garden more bulbs are added to the collection each year, and I have seen lovely borders of begonias in other gardens.

It is time now to order your requirements for this spring while you supply it full and the busy nursery man has the time to fill your order as it is received. All orders are to be filled in the order which they are received, and many orders are now in for the spring planting.

If you are planning on entering in the Beautification Contest this year, some of these begonia bulbs will make a colorful display when you need it most at the time of judging in the fall. Dahlias are also ready now and Gloxinias and Amaryllis bulbs.

I have been informed that many new prizes are being given to the contestants for the first time by individuals and firms who are interested in this patriotic gardening effort on behalf of the Society and we can expect good things this year making our lovely Province lovelier still in the coming season.

Over at the Nursery I saw a beautiful mauve Orchid and others which will bloom later on. I think every gardener hopes to grow one of these exotic plants some day, and the gardener here would certainly like to try.

It is interesting to see the new materials used in gardening such as plastic coverings for the greenhouse, where the heat is kept in and the cold outdoors. Also the use of this material in the sowing of seeds and rooting of slips of the different plants. New paper containers for roses and other plants are now used with great success and when planting outdoors it is only necessary to open up one side then plant so that the potted plant is not disturbed at all. There are many new materials to make gardening more interesting and easy in the limited time most of us have for this hobby.

**HERB FRAGRANCE**  
I am planning for more fragrant plants this year, growing them from seed whenever possible. Herb fragrance belongs to the Old World and is our connection to centuries long dead. Through these scents we may link ourselves with the ancient past—the magic, witchcraft, healing, cooking, drinking and superstition—the adventuresome search for spices and herbs in far lands. Ancient caravans winding through mountains passes, monast-

eries on sunlit peaks, gardens of cottage doorways, cloistered gardens and gardens drifting in terraces of color down Italian hill-sides, patches of gray and green in an English paved and patterned close—all come to mind with this fragrance of the past.

Lavender with grey foliage and purple or lavender blooms in spikes is probably the best known fragrant herb. It has grown in the garden here for many years and last autumn more plants were added to the collection and now this spring more are ordered for planting in sunny places. The lavender's native to the Canary Islands and from northern Africa to India. Lemon verbena from Argentina and Chile, is a favorite, and the clear lemon scent is one which all visitors enjoy. Mixed with lavender in bags, it imparts a fresher tang to the fragrance of the dried lavender. It is always a welcome addition to potpourri and to bouquets for the blind and the sick.

From the Mediterranean comes sage, the pungence of the leaves bring visions of goose and turkey stuffing to most of us. Over at the Nursery last week some potted plants were delicious when sprigs were pressed between the fingers. Pineapple sage is a native of Mexico; but in the East it is a marvelous house plant with delightful firecracker red blooms. It smells strongly of pineapple—the leaves are fine to feed tea or lemonade, and it is easily grown from cuttings rooted in damp sand or water.

Mother-of-thyme from Europe, Asia and North Africa, is a creeping plant with pinkish lavender bloom, pungent when trodden upon and fragrant as a mat for sitting here in the garden it grows on the lower terrace by the stone steps, and whenever we make the "garden tour" a leaf is pressed between the fingers for the lovely scent. These plants were grown from seed and they do very well as not be added to the garden this spring. The double purple violets are important among the perfume-bearers of early spring. They wait a delicious air to anyone entering the garden. It is possible to get this delicious fragrance at some distance from where the violets are growing.

**NOTE OF SURPRISE**  
These plants all add a note of surprise to a garden tour, and a garden of herbs need no larger than the shadow of a bush, yet within it, as in no other, a mood of the earth approaches and encounters the spirit of man. Be content these ancestral leaves, these immemorial attendants of man, these servants of magic and healers of his pain, the earth underneath is the earth of poetry and the human spirit; in this small sun and shade flourishes a little tradition of mankind.

Those thoughts come to all who love the fragrant herbs in their gardens and more of these are being added to the garden here at every opportunity.

**PUAGENT OF THE ROSE**  
A most lovely book has been received from our Public Library. "Pageant of the Rose" written by Jean Gordon. It is a history of the rose in art, religion, legend, romance and poetry, prose and symbolism. Every rose grower and those who do not grow them will enjoy this book.

The wealth of intriguing information and romantic incidents connected with the rose leads us on a fascinating voyage through history from the beginning of time to the present day. The great myths and legends, the million-year-old rose fossils (illustrated), the romantic use to which the flower was put by many notable people—including Cleopatra when she used it to perfume her hair, the superstitions and charms such as those resorted to by wives of errant husbands, the delicious recipes used in rose cooking and potpourri, the history of perfume, and descriptions of the world's finest rose gardens of the world form one part of the book.

# WOMEN

Wed., Feb. 29, 1956 The Guardian, Page 9

## ELLEN'S DIARY

### Into The Land Of Dreams

"It's good to get away from home for a while" a farmwife who, as we, in the sunny mildness prevailing here, come a-gipsying to town, said yesterday when we chatted a moment in a store while the life that belongs to a marketplace ebbed and flowed there.

"It's not that I intend to buy much but it's nice to visit the stores, and she smiled, also do some window-shopping. 'Do you know where the people here don't window-shop as much as those in other cities? I like to meet and chat with others they do say these times that we have to come to town to see our neighbors! And when time of all I go and sit in the car and see-observe I should say, the folks go by. It's all a pleasant change. Gives one new scenes, fresh thoughts. Yes it's nice to get away. And then' she laughed happily 'it's good to come home! There's no place better to be, is there?'

"Sometimes I wish there weren't any! Mack only grandson of this place offered this afternoon coming in from the outdoors with an expression which told plainly that his usually pleasant world about was awry. 'I'm hungry he laid a short broad hand on his stomach. 'And if I go over there' he nodded in the direction of the house across the lane, 'they (Jeanie and Grand daughter) will want me to stay in and learn my lesson for tomorrow.

And I'd rather learn it after supper. 'You could stay here and never go home' we suggested. 'You could bring over your other clothes, and books and toys you could sleep in your Dad's room.'

"And what would you give me?" his manner brightened with interest.

"The sparrows out here on the roosebush-except one!"

"Which one?" he moved to the couch where we sat to get a better view.

"The little one in the pretty jacket. There! Isn't he a bright chap?"

"He is real cute," he chuckled. "Mack's considering staying over with us at this house, little sparrow, did you know?" we said at the pane. "He's hungry for one of his mother's cookies, and if he goes home to get one, he'll just have to stay in and learn his lesson. It's not that he doesn't enjoy learning it, but he's not ready yet. So..."

There was a silence. Mack picked up his cap and moved to the door. "Perhaps I'll try it," he smiled shyly. "I kind of like it over there. 'Home! Tonight so pleasant a place. Without the deep lull of a quiet winter-night; warm and coziness within."

"I see," James looks up from his newspaper, "there's more and more talk now about the proposed causeway across the Strait. It's not an impossibility. But, 'he misses the thought with, 'I reckon we won't see it in our day, Ellen."

"One never knows. We had no idea in our young years that we would cross on one at the North River."

"Yes, but that's only a mere step-of-causeway. But we'll see what we'll see," he says returning to his reading.

Along a causeway against which the summer-waves of the Strait lap where white gulls dip and soar like the rippling notes of a song and where breezes are salt-leadens there we think we shall come with James presently into our Land of Dreams.

Until tomorrow --- Dairy ---  
God night ---

Continued from page 8

## HAPPENINGS

ing purposes. A gift of money was received to be used for Institute work.

The committee reported that a carpenter had been engaged to build a bookcase for the school. Cards were sold and collection was taken amounting to \$2.00. New school committee was appointed: Mrs. Gerald Mill and Mrs. Ernest Mill. The March meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Edson Rayner's and if regular night of meeting is stormy, members will meet first fine night after. Roll call is to be answered by donation for fish pond. Committee to assist hostess, Mrs. Cecil Mill and Mrs. Harold Mill. Program com-

pleted. The author, famous rose authority, writer and lecturer, has spent ten years preparing this monumental work. The result represents a great achievement in research and the most important historical record of the rose to date. The book is attractively illustrated throughout with one hundred illustrations, including fourteen in full color.

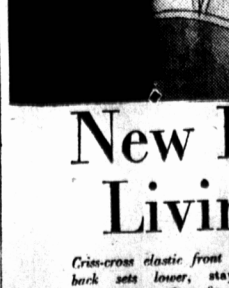
On the antiquity of the rose, legends and geologists agree, tracing its ancestry through millions of years. When the Romans took over the culture they inherited, the Grecian Aphrodite, goddess of love, became the Roman Venus. So, too, the rose sacred to Aphrodite became the floral symbol of Venus. Whatsoever of beauty, youth and sweet breath took a shape in roses.

Research into the earliest use of roses takes us back to ancient Egypt. From three hundred B.C. evidences of the flower became more frequent. The Pharaohs had their palace rose gardens and in the tombs of that period and later, the symbolic flower was often placed with the body. By the era of Cleopatra, it would seem that the rose had practically replaced the lotus as the ceremonial flower of that country.

Cleopatra contributed much to the popularization of the rose-in high circles at least. The flower had become a fad and an obsession, and the lavish use of roses at court required the cultivation of enormous gardens. In this way the Romans became the rose-supply nation of the Mediterranean and shipped roses as far as Rome, although no one has yet discovered how the flowers were kept fresh during that long voyage.

When Cleopatra received Mark Anthony, she spared no expense in entertaining him royally. On one occasion, we read of the banquet hall and of the floor strewn with rose petals to a depth of eighteen inches. In the lovely book "The Pageant of the Rose" we read of many interesting facts about roses and next week we shall continue our study of roses.

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tee. Mrs. Wm. Mill and Mrs. Harold Mill.

After business meeting Mrs. Cecil Mill led in a balloon contest. After lunch was served by hostess and committee a social time was spent. Meeting adjourned with the singing of the Queen.

**CLYDE RIVER W. M. S.**  
The February meeting of the Clyde River Presbyterian W.M.S. met at the Manse. Meeting opened with "Call To Worship", taken from Psalm 49 verses 1-4 read in unison. Prayer was then sung. Prayer was offered by Mrs. Donald Nicholson. Scripture reading was Matthew 6 verses 5-13 and James 5:13-20. The Exposition was read by Mrs. Foster MacKinnon followed by a circle of Prayer. Hymn 490 was then sung.

Minutes were read and approved and roll call was answered by 18 members. A thank-you note was received from Mrs. Thomas Beer and a letter in appreciation for fruit received was read from Mr. and Mrs. Fulford Darrach. Mrs. Mervin MacPhee thanked the members for baby gift. It was decided to meet with Cornwall W.M.S. for "World Day of Prayer" service. The offering was received amounting to \$2.55.

A reading entitled, "Prayer", was read by the president. A letter was read from Mrs. Lillian Dickson, a solo, "He Pearly Gates Will Open", was sung by Rev. Donald Nicholson. Readings were given by Mrs. Katherine Murray, Mrs. Everett Murray and Mrs. John Gillespie.

The March meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Mervin MacPhee, when the lunch committee will be Mrs. Everett Murray, Mrs. Heber Campbell, Mrs. Keith Young and Mrs. Foster MacKinnon and Mrs. Lloyd Murray.

The meeting closed with Hymn 493 followed by the Apostle's Creed and the Mizpah benediction. Lunch was served by hostess and committee in charge.

**DeSABLE W. I.**  
The February meeting of DeSable W.I. which marked the eighth anniversary of its organization met at the home of Mrs. Clifton Lee on Friday Feb. 24th, with 15 members and 5 visitors. A delicious and nicely decorated birthday cake was made by Mrs. Borden Walton. Meeting opened with the "ode" followed by the Creed in unison. Roll call was answered by each member doing good deeds.

Sick committee reported three sick calls and a bill of \$1.35 was paid. Two new members joined at this meeting. \$5.00 was donated to the March of Dimes.

It was decided to canvas the District for donations for the Red Cross. Six members decided to clean the school. Committees appointed for next month: Sick, Mrs. Borden Walton, Mrs. George Bell, School, Mrs. Nicholas Gillis; Program, Mrs. George Bell; Lunch, Mrs. Borden Walton, Mrs. Clifton Lee and Mrs. Duncan MacKinnon; Roll call for next meeting "One way to avoid accidents in the home." Collection at this meeting \$14.5. The singing of the National Anthem closed the meeting.

A social evening including games and sing-song was then followed by several members. The March meeting will be held at the home of Miss Charlotte Mackay.

**RIVERDALE-CHURCHILL W. I.**  
The Riverdale-Churchill W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Waldron MacKinnon. The meeting opened by singing the Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call was answered by exchanging Valentines. The secretary reported having purchased cod-liver oil capsules

and having received remnants from Eaton's.

The sick committee reported having visited the sick in the district and Mrs. John A. MacKinnon was on the sick committee for Churchill for the next three months.

It was decided to hold a pantry sale at Holman's on Feb. 24th; also it was decided to have an anniversary supper for the Institute members and their husbands to be held March 17 at the Rendezvous.

A two-minute silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Belle Lamont who passed away a year ago. The roll call will be answered by bringing an item for an auction sale. The meeting closed by singing the National Anthem followed by a delicious lunch served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Kelsey Buchanan.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Garfield MacFadyen.

**ANGLO RUSTICO W. I.**  
The February meeting of Anglo Rustico W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. Edson Rollings. Six members answered roll call with an original Valentine. There were two visitors present.

Two dollars was voted for the March of Dimes. Bookmarks sent out by the Canadian Institute for the Blind were distributed. Mrs. Cyril Toombs conveyed thanks from Mrs. Birt for a card received. A thank-you card for flowers was received from Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Parkman and family.

A bill for floral spray was voted paid. Six members subscribed to Institute News. New committees appointed were: Lunch, Mrs. Elyton Bulman and Mrs. Read Stevenson; School, Jean Chandler; Sick, Mrs. Cyril Toombs and Mrs. Ira Craswell; Program, Mrs. Roland Buntain and Mrs. Hooper.

The roll call at next meeting is to be answered with an Irish joke. Mrs. Noel Hooper invited the next meeting to her home. After an interesting program, lunch was served by the committee in charge.

**SOURIS W. M. S.**  
The February meeting of Souris W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. W. B. Leard on Monday, Feb. 13th at 8:00 pm Mrs. W. J. Poole conducted the devotional period, assisted by various members reading passages of scripture relating to the theme "Our High Calling" The Service closed with Hymn 366.

The president presided at the business meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Nine members responded to the roll call. The treasurer reported \$7.20 on hand. Mrs. E.J. MacDonald reported the plans for the World Day of Prayer Service to be held in the Church were completed. The friendship secretary reported 14 hospital calls, 10 home

calls and two cards sent during the past month. The members read a total of 15 books.

Due to the absence of Rev. Mr. Sharpe, Mrs. N. B. Leard consented to conduct the Installation Service for the 1956 Officers which had been postponed to the February meeting. Mrs. F. Peacock conducted an interesting report on the Presbyterian Sessions which had been held in Charlottetown recently. A letter was read from the Canadian Mission in Korea thanking the Society for parcels of used clothing which had been forwarded during the summer.

Mrs. Edgar Poole invited the members to meet in her home for the March meeting when Mrs. E.J. MacDonald will have charge of the Study Book and roll call will be answered with a verse of scripture containing the word "Covenant."

The Easter thankoffering was discussed briefly and it was agreed the president should contact a speaker for that occasion. Mrs. W. J. Poole assisted by Mrs. Edgar Poole and Mrs. C. Wright conducted an interesting report on the book "No Vanishing Race." The meeting was adjourned by repeating the Mizpah benediction in unison after which refreshments were served by the hostess.

**HIGHFIELD W. I.**  
Mrs. Lloyd Diamond was hostess to the Highfield W.I. on Feb. 6th. Roll call was answered with twenty-three members and two visitors. The president, Mrs. Stephen Foyler presided and opened the meeting with the Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of the treasurer, the report was read by Mrs. Perley Taylor, Mrs. James Coles, Mrs. Wallace Rodd, Mrs. E.C. Code, and Mrs. H. Sanderson. New hall committee was then appointed Mrs. Stanley Vessey, Mrs. Jack Townsend, Mrs. D.A. Clark and Mrs. H. Sanderson. Sick was re-elected also school.

Mrs. Ralph Gay kindly invited members to her home for our March meeting. Lunch committee, Mrs. Stanley Vessey, Mrs. Jack Townsend, Mrs. Leslie Bryden and Mrs. Ralph Balderson. Meeting then adjourned. Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by committee in charge.

**SUMMERSEDE W.M.S.**  
The W.M.S. of the Summerside Presbyterian church met in the church parlor on Tuesday Meeting opened with prayer by Mrs. Wyman Birch, followed by the repeating of

the Lord's Prayer in Unison and singing of hymn 49. Prayer was offered by Mrs. Brecken Simmons. Mrs. Hilbert Johnston, Mrs. Ernest Walker, Mrs. Robert Wood, Mrs. Douglas Coffin and Miss Emmeline Marchbanks.

The subject of the meeting was "Prayer." Mrs. Harold Hall read a very interesting article on Prayer. The devotional period closed with singing a hymn and prayer by Mrs. Birch.

Mrs. William Forbes, the president, was in charge of the business meeting. Eighteen members responded to roll call and there was one visitor. The study book was in charge of Mrs. Lloyd Gorill and Miss Jean MacFadyen. It was entitled "The refugee problem in Europe and Asia." Mrs. Johnston gave a report for the visiting committee, and a new visiting committee was appointed as follows: Mrs. W. J. MacKenzie and Miss Jean MacFadyen. Meeting adjourned.

**DOCK W. I.**  
Mrs. C. E. Walper was hostess to the Dock Women's Institute Tuesday evening, February 14. She was assisted by the president, Mrs. C. W. Hayes.

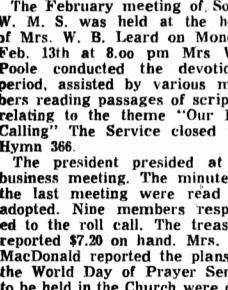
Following the Institute Ode and Creed, the roll was responded to by each member donating a "get-well" card. Several visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes were read and approved and correspondence was given attention. It was decided to make a donation to the March of Dimes. The members planned to meet next week to work on crib quilts for the Orphanage.

Mrs. Walter Wells invited the members to her home for next

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