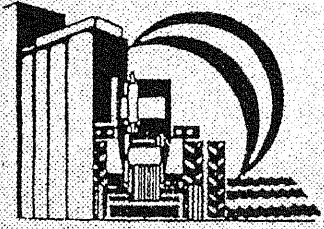


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The Progress-Advance

SERVING THE THUMB SINCE 1897

VOL. 94, NO. 24 52 Pages
(3 SECTIONS)

Pigeon, Elkton, Caseville, Bay Port and Owendale, Michigan

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4, 1991
THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 1991

Lending a helping hand in Caseville

Christmas '91 will be brighter for many Caseville area residents, thanks to the efforts of the Caseville Community Christmas Fund volunteers.

Chairmen Marie Quinn and Colleen Poisson say even more residents will be assisted this year, due to state cutbacks which have put the squeeze on many local families. "Last year we donated to 54 seniors, to an adult foster care home, as well as to 38 families with 136 individuals. This year, the need will be even greater," they say.

Each child in a family receives a new toy and each member of the family gets a new article of clothing. Food gift certificates are also given to each family. "Our local churches, service groups and individuals have all been very supportive of our holiday efforts," she adds.

Harron Cable, Inc. of Caseville is helping in a special way this year, Poisson and Quinn say, by offering free

upgrades and free installation with the donation of a new \$10 toy, which is do-

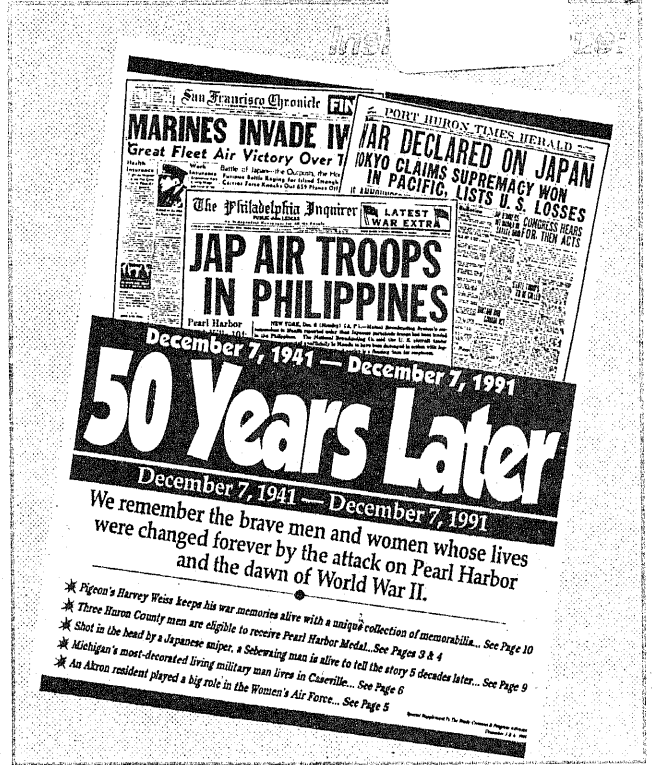
nated to the Fund.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Christmas

Fund may contact either Marie Quinn or Colleen Poisson.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS: Volunteers for the Caseville Community Christmas Fund surround themselves with toys. Pictured here are, from left, Linda Meriz, business manager at Harron Cable in Caseville and Colleen Poisson and Marie Quinn, co-chairmen. AMY HEIDEN PHOTO



Thumb Weekly News Round-Up

NO MORE STATE POLICE WEATHER CALLS POSSIBLE

The "Michigan State Police Travel Advisory Network" has been started, to provide current road condition reports to all local radio and TV stations in the state. In doing so, State Police hope to provide the same travel condition information to the through the media -- thus eliminating hundreds of calls asking for the latest road conditions.

"These calls tie up existing emergency lines, prevent priority calls from coming in, and take troopers from other law enforcement assignments," says Bad Axe Post Commander Lt. Lee McDowell.

"We're asking you, beginning this winter, to obtain road condition reports like you do school closings—through local radio and television broadcasts. By not calling the local Post, we can provide better law enforcement to everyone in the community, Lt. McDowell says.

MOTH FIGHTERS LOOK TO SPRING

Although the cold weather is setting in quickly, the people working on the Huron County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program are already looking toward spring. During October and November, workers have been out checking areas around the county for gypsy moth infestations.

"The caterpillars are gone now, but the egg masses from which they hatch are on the trees and will be there throughout the winter," says County Gypsy Moth Technician Sally Comer. "These egg clusters can be anywhere from the size of a dime to larger than a quarter. They are brownish in color when first laid in August and then fade to a lighter brown or buff color."

The female gypsy moth deposits these egg masses on any convenient surface including the bark of trees, the underside of cars and trailers, picnic tables and on ricks and twigs. Anywhere from 50 to 1,000 caterpillars can hatch from each one of the egg masses and each caterpillar can eat up to ten leaves during the larval stage of its life.

"Homeowners should scrape these egg masses into a bucket of soapy water or into a bag and burn them," said Comer. "Please note that scraping them onto the ground won't do any good because they will hatch there just as well as on the tree."

Townships in Huron County being surveyed for gypsy moth infestations for next year's treatment program are: Caseville, Colfax, Fair Haven, Grant, Hume, Oliver, Pointe

Please turn to Page 3

Come to Elkton's Open House this Sunday!

Downtown Elkton will be decking the halls and getting out the mistletoe during the annual Christmas Open House this Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Elkton Chamber of Commerce, the Open House celebration features special bargains at many Elkton merchants, store drawings, kids and adult prizes, and the final 300 Club drawing.

All the events take place at the new Huron Youth Center on Main Street, where free bean soup, hot chocolate, cookies, and coffee will be available, according to Chamber President Phyllis Podlaskowski.

SEE DETAILS INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PROGRESS-ADVANCE!

A top prize of \$200 in Elkton Funny Money will be awarded to a lucky adult, along with two prizes of \$100 in Funny Money. A cash prize of \$200 in fives and tens will be given to a lucky youngster in the kid's drawing, and two bikes will be given away with lots of other prizes.

The annual Arts and Crafts Fair will be held at the Village Hall, with plenty of baked goods and Christmas crafts available for purchase. Six lucky 300 Club ticket holders will win cash in the final drawings. Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 and two \$50 prizes will be awarded.

Lavern Sturm wins \$1000 in first Pigeon drawing



LAVERN STURM
\$1000 Prize Winner

26 people were picked as winners Sunday afternoon, during the first weekly drawings in the annual Pigeon Chamber of Commerce Christmas Giveaway.

LAVERN STURM of Pigeon won \$1000 in Pigeon Shopping Money, good at any Chamber of Commerce stores. His padlock was one of two that opened after his name was drawn from the drum, and he chose a big colored box that held the \$1000 prize. His ticket came from the Polewach Store.

Robert Rathje of Pigeon was the other adult whose padlock opened, and he chose a box containing \$100 in shopping money. Rathje's ticket came from Diener's Home of Fine Furnishings. No one chose the \$200 prize, in the third and final box.

The other eight adult winners who each were called to stage and got \$10 each in shopping money were June Jensen of Caseville (ticket came from McCormick Motors), Carole Henry of Caseville (McCormick Motors), Flo Decker of Pigeon (Village Variety), Tom Armbruster of Pigeon (Bearled Treasures), Wilma Kovach of Owendale (Bay House Sports), Iva Brown of Pigeon (Polewach Store), Don Roestel of Pigeon (Don Erla Foods) and Ralph Nietel of Pigeon (Don Erla Foods).

TEEN WINNERS of \$10 each in shopping money were Angie Wichert, Amanda Orlik, Eil Binder, Kelly Damm and Alicia Apley, all of Pigeon.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WINNERS of toys were Andy Sting, Heidi Eichler, Jamie Dubs, Samantha Stafford, Justin Dubs and Craig Smith, all of Pigeon; Christy Schulze and Eric Nieschulz, both of Bay Port, and Jason Gettel of Elkton. Jonathon Schulze of Bay Port won the children's bicycle.

This week's Santa visits start at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon in downtown Pigeon, with all drawings starting at 4 p.m.

Woods & Waters

Patriotism In A Creek Bed

By DUANE GUENTHER



"Here! Look over here!" The voice of our biology professor fairly quivered with excitement. "What is it this time?" a college classmate of mine beamed.

"Don't worry," another chuckled, "he won't tell us 'til we all make fools of ourselves."

It was mid-summer at the Higgins Lake Conservation Training School, and I, along with several dozen other science teachers, was enrolled in a week-long college graduate course. The purpose was twofold; first, to earn my last 2 credits toward an evasive Master's Degree, and second, to explore new ideas on how to teach science to uninterested students.

I was fortunate enough to be placed under the tutorage of an excellent instructor from Western Michigan University. Not only was he a walking encyclopedia of outdoor lore, but he also had a vigor for learning that was especially contagious.

All during the morning of the first day, he, with us in tow, criss-crossed a rolling meadow which bordered on the edge of a great swamp.

Every few steps he would sink to his knees, gather the straggling remnants of the class by his side, and proceed to point out some interesting plant, flower, track, hole, or what-have-you.

His teaching method was way ahead of its time. Today they call it critical thinking, but to him, it was just a zest for learning. He would never tell us the answer to each mystery, but make us think, rely on previous learning experiences, and work cooperatively for the correct solution.

We had just arrived at his latest find when he shushed us into silence and motioned everyone to kneel beside him. Before him grew a large grayish, green plant with rough pods and pinkish lavender flowers. Perched on one of the blossoms was a large, juicy caterpillar.

"What is the name of the plant?" What will the caterpillar metamorphose into? Why did it choose this flower to feed upon? He fired the 3 questions with machine-gun rapidity.

"What did I tell you?" My study-mate sneered, peering over my shoulder. But I didn't even hear him, for I instantly knew the answer to all 3 questions and the sight of that plant, and the kingly caterpillar sitting regally in the center of the flower brought back a portion of my childhood amid a rush of memories.

"Now I want all you children to listen carefully," she said. The stern voice of my 4th grade teacher punctuated the air, and the din of the classroom stopped instantly.

"I'm sure you all know our country is at war," she added. "As a part of our war effort, we are going to have a contest and collect milkweed pods."

The discord of the classroom rose to a fever pitch, but was quickly quelled by a resounding slap of a ruler on the edge of her desk.

"This is what a milkweed looks like," she continued, pointing at the picture on the blackboard with the same ruler which shortly before had smacked the desktop.

"The silky fibers inside the pods will be used to stuff lifejackets to save the lives of our soldiers and sailors." That evening, armed with 4 orange-colored, net onion sacks I headed for the field behind our house. Search as I may, I didn't spot one single milkweed, let alone a fiber-filled pod.

Disheartened, I returned to school the next morning to be greeted by a humongous pile of onion sacks, all filled with pods, lying in the corner of the room. And worse, a score sheet with my name on the bottom was posted next to the classroom door.

My Dad, who was always more like a grandpa to me, took me aside that evening, and explained that milkweeds liked water.

"Perhaps," he said, "you should look down by the creek bed tonight."

My feet fairly flew along the lane, across the weed-

choked woodlot and down the steep slope of the banks of the Wiscoggin Creek that circled our town. There, spread before me like a gray-green forest, was a stand of milkweed plants with enough pods to fill a hundred onion sacks.

I did not win the contest, but it didn't seem to matter.

I just felt extra good when the teacher told us our milkweed pods might save a sailor's life.

She also taught us that caterpillars lived on the milkweed plant. These caterpillars, which turned into beautiful Monarch butterflies, ate a special gunk from the milkweed flower that

made birds puke when they tried to eat them.

During recess that day, we chased a bunch of screaming girls around the playground, emitting horrible, gagging sounds. What a way to win a war....

Retired School Personnel meet in Bad Axe

The Huron Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel met Wednesday, November 20, at Bad Axe Presbyterian Church with 98 in attendance.

The 11 a.m. business meeting was called to order by the president, Faith Bishop, who led the Pledge to the Flag. This was followed by Jane Mayes, who welcomed everyone, shared some reasons for looking forward to retirement, and shared a poem she wrote.

The minutes of September 25 were read by Della Trudgen. Grace Dunlap gave the treasurer's report. Olive McCoy gave the MARSP Foundation report. Myra Pangman and Morgan Ballagh gave the insurance report. George Greene gave membership report—330 members of which 43 are life members. There were 60 charter members of which 23 are still living. Elnora Winkel gave the scholarship report.

Pat Leneway is the chairperson of callers. Volunteers were accepted to fill needed calling positions.

Local dues were raised by one dollar. Next year's dues will be \$3.

Faith Bishop printed a hand-out for members which includes 1992 schedule, frequently used numbers and officers and committee chair persons.

A family style turkey dinner was served by the Presbyterian Church Ladies.

An afternoon Musical Program was presented by the Pudney's—Betty, Charles and their daughter, Charlotte Lothian. It was a full afternoon of entertainment.

The next meeting of HC-MARSP will be Wednesday, April 22, 1992, at the Bad Axe Skill Center.

Bay Port news

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Williams and son, Joey, of Lansing spent several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sluke. On Thanksgiving, the Williams, Slukes, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Esch and family, Alma Stahl, and Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Schulz were guests of Diana McGee. Joey's first birthday was celebrated.

Outdoor Report - Dec. 2, 1991

A recent order by Governor Engler has the MUCC and other outdoor groups up in arms. The executive order, issued on November 8th, abolished 19 advisory boards and commissions, including some of the powers now held by the Natural Resources Commission. If the order holds (the Legislature has 60 days to rescind the order), the DNR Director will have sole power on many decisions affecting hunting and fishing.

Presently, the NCR Commission hears any changes and sportsmen are alerted to such changes through a monthly agenda. This gives groups time to testify for or against said changes. If the order goes into effect, the Director will be able to change seasons, bag limits, rules for hunting, and who knows what else.

Might not be a bad idea to give your favorite Senator a call and let him know how you feel.

Saturday marked the end of the 1991 firearm deer season and it will be a couple of weeks until the DNR lets us know what kind of a season it was. Locally, hunters complained about the lack of deer sightings, but the weather was so bad many felt that may have been the cause.

Sunday, the last part of the bow season opened and will continue until Jan. 1, as well as the second part of the grouse and squirrel season. Blackpowder hunters will also get a crack at whitetails from Dec. 13 thru Dec. 22.

Most '92 seed is plentiful and good

EAST LANSING—For the most part, the 1991 growing season produced certified seed stocks of excellent quality for next year's crops.

Dennis Greenman, manager of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association, says that this year was one of the best he has seen for seed germination and freedom from disease.

Tests on dry edible beans show low incidence of bacterial blight, and germination running from the mid-to-high 90s. Seed yield per acre increased by 15% to more than 30% this year, providing ample stocks of certified seed.

Per-acre soybean certified seed yield increased by 25% during 1991, and early test results show germination rates well above 90% and good seed quality.

MCIA laboratory tests on nearly 2,000 corn seed lots to date show excellent quality with germination rates consistently running between 92-98%, Greenman says. The seed supply should be ample.

Though the quality and germination are good, Greenman says stocks of certified seed potatoes are adequate for only about 34,000 of the approximately 40,000 acres planted for tablestock production each year in Michi-

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Bean industry gears up for '92 State Bean Day

Leaders in the dry edible bean industry are looking past the coming holidays to winter meetings including State Bean Day on Tuesday, February 25, at Saginaw Civic Center.

An impressive array of speakers will participate, according to Jim Byrum, executive secretary of the Michigan Bean Commission, Leslie.

QUALITY CHANGES AHEAD

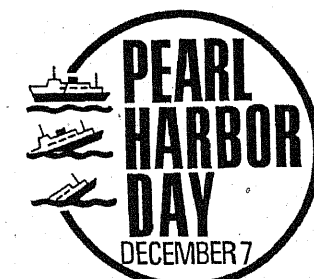
Dennis Holmes, purchasing manager for Stratford-Upon-Avon Foods in England, and Bob Turner, purchasing manager for Bush Brothers, have been invited to discuss market conditions, the outlook for their products and changes in quality specifications which growers should recognize as they move through future years.

BEAN GROWERS WILL VOTE

During the first 2 weeks of March, 1992, dry bean growers in Michigan will be asked for their approval to increase the Bean Commission's dry bean assessment from 5c to 10c per hundredweight of beans marketed by growers. The new rate would begin with the 1992 crop, Byrum stated.

HOW MONEY WILL BE USED

The Commission proposed



1991-1992 Crop and Soils Tentative Meeting Schedule

- December 12 Thumb Ag Day - Colony House, Cass. City
- December 18 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - "Close of Year Decisions, Partnerships and Corporations", John Walsh, CPA
- January 3 Michigan Corn Growers/Michigan Soybean Association Annual Meeting - Frankenmuth
- January 7-9 Opportunity '92 Leadership Program - Lansing
- January 15 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - Wills and Estate Planning
- January 16 Huron County Bean Day - Bad Axe
- January 23 Opportunity '92 Leadership Program - Bad Axe
- January 29 R.U.P. Test for Certification - Bad Axe
- January 29 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - Market Outlook
- January 31 Michigan Corn Growers/CES Corn Program - Caro
- February 4 R.U.P. Herbicide Meeting (3 credits)
- February 5 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - Huron County Plot Report and Water Quality Activities
- February 6 Opportunity '92 Leadership Program - Bad Axe
- February 12 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - Crop Diseases, Insect, IPNM and Herbicide Recommendations
- February 13 Fertilizer Update - Bad Axe
- February 19 Owendale Meeting, 8 p.m. - ASCS Program Review
- February 20 R.U.P. Water Quality Meeting (3 credits)
- February 26 R.U.P. Test for Certification - Bad Axe
- February 27 Opportunity '92 Leadership Program - Saginaw
- March 12 Opportunity '92 Leadership Program - Bad Axe

Obituaries

BEATRICE ELLEN GEBAUER 1909-1991

Beatrice Gebauer, age 82 of Elkton, passed away Sunday evening, Nov. 24 at St. Lukes Hospital, Saginaw of severe problems with her heart.

She was born February 27, 1909 in Flint, daughter of the late George and Ella May (Stevens) Madison. She was united in marriage to Wesley Gebauer on Dec. 11, 1931 at the Methodist parsonage in Elkton.

Mrs. Gebauer lived in Flint until her first teaching position which brought her to Elkton. She also taught in Kinde, Bad Axe, Pigeon, Kingston, Caseville and retired from Laker's in 1971. She received her teaching certificate from Michigan Normal and her Masters Degree from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

She was a member of the Elkton United Methodist Church, CMU Alumni Association, charter member of the Elkton Women's Civic Club and past president of the Huron County Retired Teachers Association.

She is survived by her husband, Wesley; children, Fred (Teresa) Gebauer of Grand Rapids and Barbara (Charles) Pierce of Lowell; grandchildren, Amy, Lisa, Becky, Robin and Greg; two sisters, Bernice (Larry) Zillick of Bay City and Marjorie Taylor of Flint.

She was preceded in death by a sister and two brothers. Funeral services were conducted Friday, Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. from the Elkton United Methodist Church. Rev. Jim James, pastor, officiated with burial in Riverside Cemetery, Elkton.

Memorials may be made to the scholarship fund of the Huron County Retired School Personnel. Arrangements were handled by Champagne Funeral Chapel, Elkton.

Other Thumb Area deaths

Otto Buelow, South Haven, formerly of Bad Axe, passed away Nov. 24. Iris McEachern, 85, Cass City, passed away Nov. 25.

CHRISTMAS AUCTION

December 7, 1991
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11:00 A.M. AUCTION BEGINS

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- Touch Lamps
- Toy Tractors
- Handmade Doilies
- Quilts
- Raspberry Jam
- Lift Chairs
- Doll House
- Toys
- Furniture
- Tools
- Sporting Collectibles
- Specialty Dinners

Many more items too numerous to mention.



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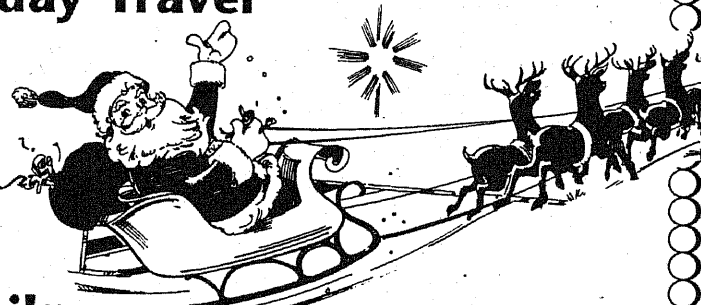
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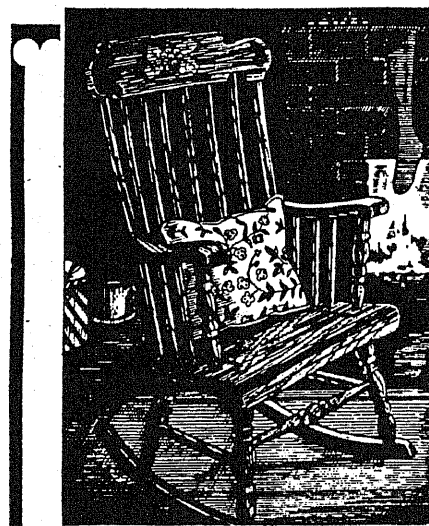
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It's been said many times, many ways, in
many languages - Merry Christmas!

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for your support and patronage over the past year.
We look forward to serving you again in the
coming year!

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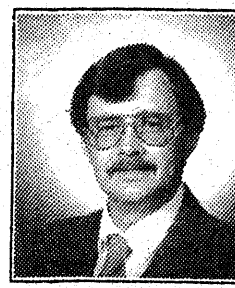
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'Winterize' your garden now

For the dyed-in-the-wool Michigan gardener, winter is just a timeout, a chance to look back at last year's efforts and plan for the coming year. Also a chance to ask Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service specialists all those nagging questions about houseplants, landscape ornaments, vegetable gardening and related topics.

Q. A couple of my houseplants are looking kind of sickly. Would repotting them be likely to help them?
A. Only if being underpotted is what's ailing them. Check by turning out the root ball and examining it. A tight mass of roots with very little soil showing means it's time to repot. If that's not the case, repotting may merely add to the plant's stress and hasten its demise.

Q. Is it worse for a plant to be overpotted-in too large a container-or underpotted?
A. Overpotted plants often develop problems due to overwatering. As a general rule, plants do better when slightly underpotted. Sometimes, being underpotted actually promotes flowering.

Q. Is misting plants twice a day enough to prevent foliage problems due to low humidity?
A. No. Misting produces only a temporary increase in humidity. A more effective approach is to group plants together in a bathroom or other area where humidity is naturally higher, set plant pots on a tray of wet gravel or double-pot plants, filling the space between the pots with peat or vermiculite kept moist.

Q. What's an epiphyte?
A. Epiphytes are plants such as bromeliads and orchids that grow in plant debris trapped in tree branches or in decaying humus on the ground rather than in soil. Another name for epiphytes is air plants.

Q. How do I propagate an old dumbcane plant? It has just a handful of leaves at the top of a long, naked stem.
A. The process used to propagate dumbcane is called air layering. The first step is to cut about halfway through the stem 12 to 18 inches below the growing tip. Prop the cut open with a matchstick to prevent healing. Rooting hormone may be applied to the wounded area. Then wrap the area in moist sphagnum moss and cover it with plastic, wrapping and tying or taping the ends of the plastic to the stem to keep the moss from drying out.

Q. What's this I hear about some insects having a sort of biological antifreeze in their bodies?
A. It's true. Some insects, primarily aquatic ones, can be active all year round because of a glycol-like substance in their body fluids that resists freezing and so keeps the insects from being torn apart by the formation of ice crystals.

Q. Why do you seldom see sassafras trees used as landscape ornaments?
A. The main reason is that sassafras trees have long taproots that make them difficult to transplant.

Q. Why are fluorescent lights better than incandescent bulbs for growing plants indoors?
A. Fluorescent tubes give off more light per unit of energy used. Incandescent bulbs give off part of that energy in the form of heat rather than light. This heat can damage plants growing close by. Another reason is that plants grow better in the light from fluorescent tubes. In the yellow light from incandescent bulbs, foliage tends to be pale and stems elongated, and plants age quickly. In light from fluorescent tubes, stems do not elongate, leaves grow close together and plants age more slowly.

Q. What are the advantages of ordering vegetable and flower seeds from catalogs?
A. Variety is one. Seed racks in garden centers and other retail outlets offer at most a few varieties. Catalogs, particularly those dedicated to Oriental vegetables, herbs, wildflowers, heirloom vegetables and other specialty crops, give you many more choices.

Q. How does pinching a plant make it grow bushier?
A. The tip of the growing shoot produces a hormone, auxin, that inhibits development of side shoots. The term for this is apical dominance. Removing that tip stops the production of auxin and permits lateral buds to develop.

Simply cut the old stem off just above a node—nodes are places on the stem where leaves or buds originate—near the soil level. The plant will soon send up a new shoot.

To further increase your plant population, try cutting the remaining long stem into segments, making sure each one has a node, and half-burying them horizontally in sand or vermiculite. Keep the medium moist but not soggy so the segments don't rot. It may take one to three months for roots to develop and shoots to begin to grow.

and timeliness and the opportunity to buy in quantities larger than single packet sizes are other advantages that catalog shopping provides.

Chinese chestnuts may begin to bear the year after planting, but they are only about as hardy as peaches and so can not be grown anywhere that peaches do not do well.

Hickory trees may take 20 years or longer to begin to produce. Black walnut seedlings may take eight to 12 years; grafted varieties are

somewhat quicker. Grafted varieties of butternut and heartnut begin to produce nuts in two to four years.

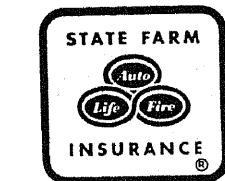
American hazelnut, which is more like a shrub than a tree and is fully hardy in Michigan, and hybrids of the American and the less hardy European hazelnut usually begin producing in three years.

Remove that tip stops the production of auxin and permits lateral buds to develop.

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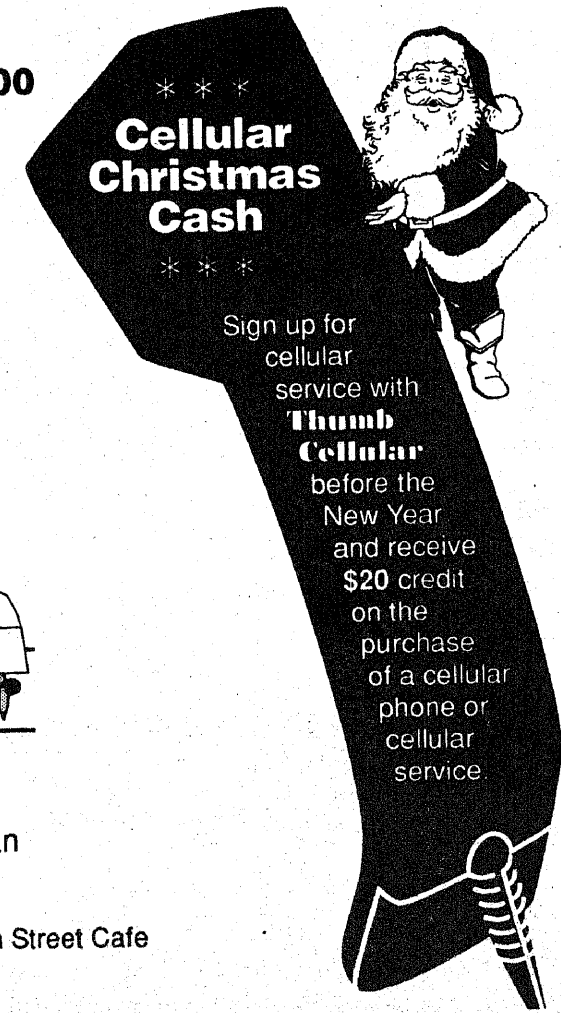
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