

What Makes Your Garden Grow?

A feature in keeping with this year's conservation project of Variety Garden Club of Firestone

Do you get a lot of satisfaction from seeing your lawn grow healthy and green and your flowers produce "show-case" blossoms? Easy, now, on taking most of the credit yourself!

Most of the credit rightfully belongs to millions of Nature's creatures, hard at work in your lawn and garden around the seasons.

The topsoil, for example, is literally alive with tiny creatures whose activity aerates the soil, and whose wastes enrich it. A mere thimbleful of topsoil contains millions of microscopic plants and animals, each contributing to the soil's fertility and well-being. Many break down humus and free the minerals needed to support new garden growth.

THERE'S the lowly earthworm. He spends his whole life cultivating the land. Earthworms can turn over as much as 18 tons of soil per acre in one year. Imagine all that work at the end of your shovel handle!

If crabgrass and ragweed are troublemakers, do you know the natural way of controlling them? The full-page ads inviting you to solve all your gardening problems with expensive chemicals may be tempting. But remember

that if such materials really did produce permanent cures, the manufacturers would soon supply all the demand.

Some of these poisons which won't harm worms, may kill the birds that eat the worms. These birds are the same fellows that thrive on the plant-killing insects in your garden. So it pays to keep the birds healthy.

The outdoors is marvelously intricate once you learn to understand some of it. Knowing more about the natural principles of land use will make gardening more profitable and more fun. It can even help you wake up and live more meaningfully, aware of the fascination of nature's processes and the beauty of some of her creatures you've never even noticed before.

The earth is an island in time. Living on it is a challenge in cooperation.

What makes your garden grow? Your own intelligent work backed by the activities of millions of unseen helpers you may have ignored too long. It is especially important not to be heavy-handed with those helpmates.

They include the hawks, owls, toads, skunks, ladybugs, praying

Calvin Coolidge, 29th President of the United States, was born July 4, 1872. These words of his are fitting on this anniversary month of his birth and the month of American Independence.

"The Government of the United States is a device for maintaining in perpetuity the rights of the people."



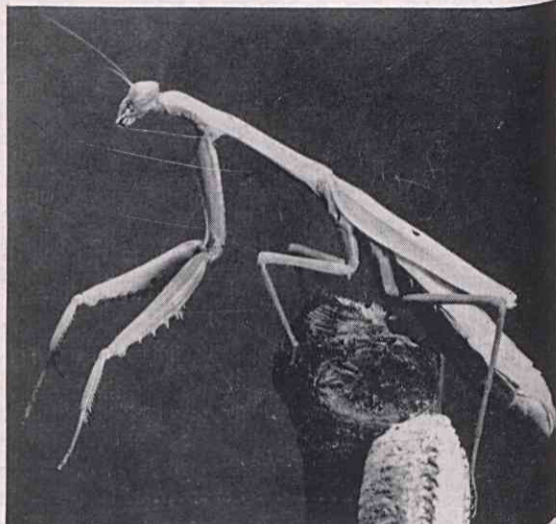
The butterfly prefers the life of the daytime, unlike his moth kin which likes the night. Butterflies are good gardening partners because of their work as pollinators.



Birds are man's best friend in many ways. Their consumption of enemy worms and insects is one of the most helpful controls to a good garden.



Mr. Toad likes the land more than his relative the frog. He usually lives in moist, cool places, devouring unwanted insects.



The praying mantis, found in most warm countries, does a good job toward controlling insects that are enemies of plant life.

ETSU Graduate

Jerry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sparrow of Union Road, is employed with Commercial Credit Company at Asheville, after having received his BS degree at East Tennessee State University May 31.

His father works at grounds maintenance at Firestone.

Jerry attended Warren Wilson Junior College at Swannanoa for two years, then transferred to ETSU at Johnson City.

mantis and a host of others that help protect the garden crops and flowers by devouring the plant eaters. They also include the pollinators—bees, butterflies and moths—the creatures that reduce dead plant and animal material to soil nutrients, the soil aerators, and many others.



Photos from National Audubon Society: Butterfly — Lynwood Chace; Birds—Allan C. Cruickshank; Toad—Robert Hermes; Praying Mantis — John Gerard.

Johnson Noon Optimist President

Ralph Johnson, manager of employee relations, was installed president of the Gastonia Noon Optimist Club July 2. Installation was at a dinner meeting at the clubhouse on West Second Ave.

The club is assured of honor status for the fourth successive year, having reached every goal and having established itself as No. 3 club in North Carolina in total points achieved.

"I know it will be hard to make five in a row, but that's what we will try to do," Johnson said upon his election to the office.

Other club officers are Carl Rhyne, first vice president; Dr. Jim Houser, second vice president; Albert Davis, third vice president; Bill McCrary, sergeant-at-arms; and Glenn Stroup, Joe Beam and John Peden, directors.



WINNING TRIO — Parnelli Jones and J. C. Agajanian (with

hat), owner of the winning Willard Battery Special, after winning the 500-mile marathon.

40th Win On Firestone Tires

"Fantastic" said Parnelli Jones of the performance of his Firestone tires, upon setting a new record of 143.137 mph during the 1963 Memorial Day Indianapolis 500-mile race before a crowd of some 300,000.

It was Jones' first 500 victory and the 40th consecutive win on Firestone tires.

The driver, 29, from Torrance, Calif., predicted before the race that the new 15-inch tires would enhance the winning car's speed by three miles per hour. Jones surpassed the record set by Roger Ward in 1962, by 2.845

mph.

Jim Clark of Duns, Scotland, who finished 30 seconds behind Jones, was clocked at 142.752 while making just one pit stop. Clark, like Jones, also used the new 15-inch tires.

A. J. Foyt, Houston, Texas; Roger Ward, Indianapolis, Ind.; Don Branson, Champaign, Ill.; and Jim McElreath, Arlington, Texas, finished 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. All six men broke the average speed of 140-292 mph set last year by Ward.

Jones' victory may well be attributed to the fast action of his

AT INDIANAPOLIS 500 RACE

pit crew. Although Clark made just one 32.3-second pit stop on the 95th lap, Jones—who made three stops—had an excellent elapsed time in the pits of one minute, 12.15 seconds.

Other drivers who finished in the top 10: Dan Gurney, 7th; Costa Mesa, Calif.; Chuck Hulse, 8th; Downey, Calif.; Al Miller, 9th; Roseville, Mich.; and Dick Rathmann, 10th; Roselle, Ill.

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Explorers Swap Keys To Two Cities

Eleven boys and post advisor Jesse Liles of Firestone-sponsored Explorer Post 328 traveled afoot the first 49 miles, rode a bus 90 miles and hiked the remaining 11 miles from Gastonia to Columbia, S. C. in June.

Boys making the trip were Randy Lewis, John Brown, Jim Rice, Glen Wiley, Rickey Liles, Jerry Buchanan, Ronnie Buchanan, Perry Barker, Charles Turner, Gary Rowland and Billy Warren.

The group camped the first two nights on the hiking portion of the trip and the third night

on the last 11 miles into Columbia. In the Palmetto Capital, they were welcomed by Mayor Leslie Bates, who received from them a key to the city of Gastonia, sent along by Gastonia Mayor Vic Phillips. Then the Explorers received a key to the City of Columbia.

The hikers were interviewed on radio and television and publicized in Columbia newspapers. At Fort Jackson they were guests of the army post, just before leaving by auto on the home trip.

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