

Bank Donates Painting To Museum

Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., N.A., presented a major French Impressionist painting, Camille Pissarro's "Le Pont St. Sever a Rouen," to the North Carolina Museum of Art at a luncheon Monday (9-23-74) at the museum.

The painting, a key work in the museum's Impressionist collection, has been at the museum on anonymous loan from the bank since 1967. Its appraised value is approximately \$100,000.

John F. Watlington Jr., board chairman and chief executive officer of Wachovia, said the gift continues the tradition of support for the arts followed by the bank over the years.

Through its policy of buying works of art by North Carolina artists and craftsmen, the bank has collected more than 3,000 paintings, prints and drawings, and more than 5,000 pieces of other types of art for display in its 176 offices in 70 cities and towns of the state.

The collection is considered the largest corporate collection in the state and one of the largest in the nation.

The bank also gave the museum one of its finest early works, "Madonna and Child," by the 13th century Italian artist Berlinghiero Berlinghieri.

Referring to the Pissarro as "an outstanding work," Moussa Domit, museum director, said, "It is gratifying to see how corporate support is continuing to strengthen the museum collection for the benefit of the people of the state."

The painting, dated 1896, is one of a series that Pissarro did in Rouen.

The scene depicts the buildings, boats, water and sky of

in which the suffusion of light mellows the sharpness of all the forms.

Writing about Pissarro's series of Rouen pictures, P.G. Hamerton, the British critic, said, "...he has so little objection to ugly objects that in one of his pictures the tower of a distant cathedral is nearly obliterated by a long chimney and the smoke that issues from it."

Pissarro, however, had a different idea about what was ugly. He once told his son, "One can make such beautiful things with so little. Motifs that are too beautiful wind up by appearing theatrical-- just look at Switzerland. Happy are those who see beauty in modest spots where others see nothing. Everything is beautiful; the whole question lies in knowing how to interpret."

Protect Your Environment Buyer, Beware

Like second-hand cars, houses built on drained and filled wetlands are apt to give their purchasers some unpleasant surprises.

"Subsidence" cracks mortar,



The "subsiding" is due to the fact that when peat and muck soils are drained, they shrink and become more compact as they slowly dry. Downward settling sometimes averages three inches a year for four or five years, and shoring-up operations are expensive and not always successful. Recently twelve brick houses in New York were condemned as unsafe because of subsidence -- and ordered demolished at their owners' expense.

Another threat is soil pollution. About half of New England wetlands are unsuitable for any building developments involving the use of septic tanks. These wetlands are cradled in bowl-shaped formations of clay or other impermeable material. They never would have become soggy in the first place if rain could penetrate the ground in the normal way. When sewage from septic tanks pours day after day into these natural basins, the bacteria that normally reduce it to harmlessness drown in the overabundance. Eventually the ground becomes saturated with sewage. Sometimes the effluent seeps into wells and has been known to cause outbreaks of hepatitis. And often, after heavy rains, it bubbles to the surface where it smells like what it is -- raw sewage.

Then, of course, there is the familiar nuisance of flooding. This can persist for 50 years or more.

Soil engineers expect that many a house built during the drought will be subject to flooding when the drought ends even though the soil was tested for drainage before building began. The tests, called

percolation tests and required in many towns for septic tank permits, tell where the water table is now. But they do not give

its normal height which could be ten or more feet above the drought level. And this is the gap that will cause flooding.

Domestic and Urban Pest Problems

Insect Pests Inside The House.

Although most indoor pests are neither hazardous nor damaging in limited numbers, householders usually regard their complete eradication as essential.

Under ordinary circumstances the most effective weapon is cleanliness. If that does not suffice, the following recommendations should be tried before using chemicals:

Ants: Under foundations, try hot water. Inside old woodwork, desiccant powders are best. An example is Drione. This formulation, however, contains piperonyl butoxide, so should not be used where it may come in contact with people.

Mosquitoes: Use screens.

Flies: Fly-paper and a fly-swatter.

Cockroaches, silverfish, etc.: Try desiccant powders or borax pellets. Severe infestations may require the use of malathion: Cockroaches are often resistant to other pesticides.

Termites and carpenter ants: This is one of the few cases where use of persistent pesticides appears justified. Chlordane or lindane (not aldrin and dieldrin which are often recommended) may be applied around foundations or under basement floors. Make sure that it is applied professionally and that none is applied or spilled inside the house or on the soil surface.

Mice: Use mousetraps.

Dog fleas: Use rotenone powder (or pyrethrum if pure).

Clothes moths: Dry-clean woolen clothes and store in airtight bags with moth balls. Do not wear permanently moth-proofed garments; they usually contain dieldrin which is absorbed through the skin.

Pesticides often are required to control domestic pests in old, seriously infested buildings and occasionally even in modern suburban homes. Since they are not regulated effectively for indoor use by existing laws, some very dangerous chemicals are commonly sold for this purpose. Of those commonly used indoors, aldrin and dieldrin have very high direct toxicity to man; in addition, DDT and carbaryl (Sevin) have been shown to have

special long-range hazards. None of these should be used. Others, such as lindane, DDVP (Vapona), and formulations containing piperonyl butoxide also appear to be hazardous. Although the evidence is inadequate they should be treated with extreme caution until they have been investigated properly. Ideally, they should be taken off the market until cleared.

Garden Pests

To many people the word "garden" suggests not only flowers but also songbirds, butterflies, bees, squirrels, and other living creatures. This diversity, which is an important part of the garden's charm, is reduced by the use of any effective insecticide. All the insects are killed, harmful and beneficial alike, and -- if only because the diet of most songbirds contains a high proportion of insects -- the birds must find their food elsewhere and there are fewer birds.

Some exotic plants are almost impossible to grow without using insecticides. Since maintaining them exacts such a high price from other forms of life, perhaps they are better left unplanted.

Some gardeners demand horticultural perfection even in certain familiar plants that happen to be unusually vulnerable to insect damage. Our concern is to make these perfectionists realize that whether to spray or not to spray is a real choice, with predictable consequences for the environment, and that careless actions will affect their own future interests and the interests of their neighbors.

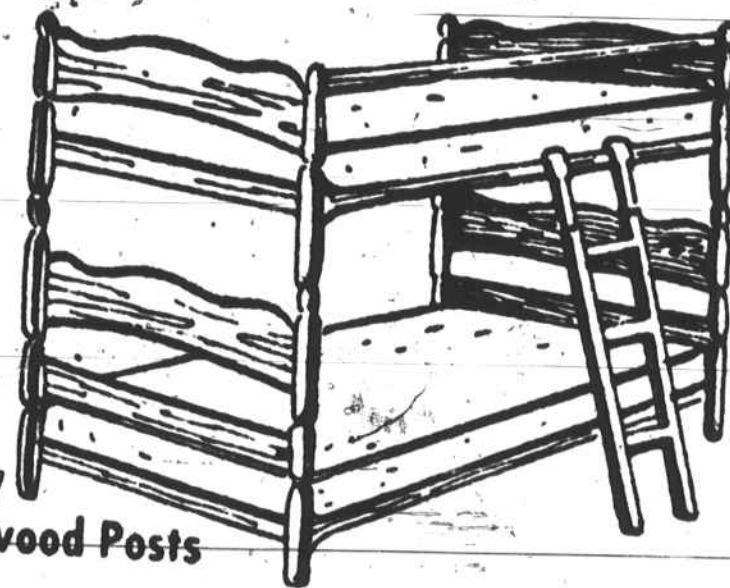
When you do have a real problem, first try spraying with soapy water, or light oil. If only a few specimen plants concern you, pick off the insects by hand. If you decide to use chemicals as a last resort, use only those listed among "Less Damaging Pesticides."

A specific caution: do not use any chlordane on your lawn. It is often recommended, either alone or in combination with fertilizer, for control of crabgrass and

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