

# Fin, Fur and Feather

By William J. Robbins Jr.



Someone once said,—"a home is not a home, until it's planted. This is indeed true, for flowers and shrubs not only add beauty but increase the value two for one.

The number of prospective buyers that must be satisfied with the products of the commercial grower is much larger now than during the late twenties and up to the late thirties. This was the period during which Rock Gardens were the rage and our local Garden Clubs had capacity attendance at their meetings.

I say the field of buyers is much larger now because of the great number of new homes that are being erected. Young married people are desirous of making their homes attractive with evergreens and flowers but prices charged for these seem quite out of line. A six or eight inch juniper will cost two or three dollars, and it is impossible to buy a small perennial for less than .35c, and in most nurseries they cost more.

To add an additional three to five hundred dollars to the purchase price of a new home requires some deep thinking on the part of a green thumb gardener. Back during the afore-mentioned years, one could buy enough flowers for ten or fifteen dollars to plant the average plot, and have during blooming period a good showing of color.

To me, it appears as if most flower merchants are snapping at the hand that is feeding them. It should be their policy to sell their stock to people, over a period of years. The bird in the hand is worth two in the bush attitude predominates in most business transactions of this age.

One of the most unscrupulous tricks I know of in recent years, is the selling of southern grown stock as northern grown. This has been happening for a number of years, and friends of mine that could ill-afford the loss have been the victims. Azaleas and evergreens seem to be the most appealing to the eye of the prospective gardener, so these are pushed by the sellers. When the first winter has passed, and they are found to be dead, a complaint is answered by the merchant saying they were improperly treated or put in the wrong soil. Don't fall victim to this type of treachery. Buy from a reliable northern concern.

Perhaps it might be a good idea to revert back to the Rock Garden and dispense with the idea of formal plantings. The variety of perennial plants that can be had will lend color to a site throughout the entire spring, summer, and autumn months. Cents can be expended in place of dollars and flowers exchanged among friends will add to the variety.

For those who might be interested, the following list is made.

Arabis, Aubrietia, Aconite, Delphinium, Phlox, (subulata and divaricata) Sedums of which there are twenty-six varieties, Thymes, any one or all of the fourteen varieties. Iris, of which there are thousands of types and colors, in addition to early and late blossomers.

Sempervivums, (hens and chickens) are fascinating, with some thirty varieties to be had. Stokesia, Liatras, Heuchera, Anemone, Bergamot, Astilbe, Campanulas, Siberian Wall flowers, Primrose, Veronicas, Cerastium, Chrysanthemums, Nierembergia, and many varieties of Hemerocallis, Trollius, Daffodils, and Tulips.

California Poppies add good color, and if one desires more green, it can be had by transplanting wood land ferns. Geums are available in three shades, white, deep orange, and intense scarlet. Gypsophila, is available in a hardy type. Helianthemum, (sunrose) is a true rock plant and comes in rose, yellow, purple, and white. Alyssum is a profuse grower. Flax adds a shade of blue unlike any other blue in flowers and most anyone with a Lilac bush will share with a friend. The same applies to Mock Orange and Japonica.

This list of flowers would suffice for the first year and if placed properly can be augmented by untold numbers of others, but not crowded or neglected for want of cultivation and plant food.

## Auxiliary To Sew

Shavertown Branch Nesbitt Hospital Auxiliary will sew for the Hospital Tuesday, May 20 in the Library Annex. Mrs. William Bond and Marian Courtright will be hostesses. Members are asked to bring sandwiches. Any one wishing transportation should phone Mrs. Theodore Baker or Mrs. John Henninger.

## Anybody Know Where There's A Little House?

Anybody know of a nice little house or an apartment with two or three bedrooms, one that would be suitable for a young mother with three stair-step children. Her husband is fighting it out on the front lines in Korea.

Mrs. David Para, at present located with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas West on Center Hill Road, Dallas, is advertising in this issue for a place to live. Her husband, Captain Para, has been with the infantry in the fighting zone since January.

He was formerly stationed as instructor in National Guard at Macon, Georgia.

Mrs. Para is the former Margaret West. The Wests moved to Dallas from Plymouth two years ago.

## Book Club To Meet In Annex Wednesday

Wednesday afternoon's meeting of Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club will feature a talk by Miss Miriam Lathrop, Librarian, on "How to Use Your Library". This will be followed by a book discussion, and tea will be served by the refreshment committee.

Members serving are Mesdames J. C. Fleming, Russell Frantz, Z. E. Garinger, Ralph Garrahan, Charles Gates, John Girvan, Paul Goddard, J. F. Godtfing, Thomas Graham, George Gregson, Herbert Griesing, James Gross and Paul Gross, and Misses Helen and Mary Gates and Estella Gpldsmith.

## Former Noxen Pastor Recovers Slowly

Rev. Emory Greenfield, injured in a fall on the pavement in front of his home in Parsons, where he is pastor of Abbott Memorial Methodist Church, is making not too good a recovery. He has been sent to General Hospital for further observation.

It was a month ago that the former Carverton and Noxen pastor struck his head when he slipped on the sidewalk. His daughter, Dorothy, came East from Oregon to care for him when the accident occurred, but has since returned to her own family.

## Catholic Daughters To Elect Officers

Catholic Daughters of America will meet at 7:45 for annual election of officers. Mrs. Irene Brown is chairman of refreshments.

### THE DALLAS POST

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A non-partisan liberal progressive newspaper published every Friday morning at the Dallas Post plant Lehman Avenue, Dallas Pennsylvania.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Dallas, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates: \$3.00 a year; \$2.00 six months. No subscriptions accepted for less than six months. Out-of-state subscriptions: \$3.50 a year; \$2.50 six months or less. Back issues, more than one week old, 10c.

Single copies, at a rate of 8c each, can be obtained every Friday morning at the following newsstands: Dallas—Berts Drug Store, Bowman's Restaurant, Donahue's Restaurant; Shavertown—Evans' Drug Store, Hall's Drug Store; Truckville, Gregory's Store; Shaver's Store; Idetown, Caves Store; Huntsville, Barnes Store; Harveys Lake; Lake Variety Store, Decker's Store; Fernbrook, Beebe's Store; Sweet Valley, Britt's Store.

When requesting a change of address subscribers are asked to give their old as well as new address. Allow two weeks for change of address or new subscription to be placed on mailing list.

We will not be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs and editorial matter unless self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed, and in no case will this material be held for more than 30 days.

National display advertising rates 63c per column inch. Transient rates 70c. Local display advertising rates 60c per column inch; specified position 70c per inch. Political advertising \$1.10 per inch. Advertising copy received on Thursday will be charged at 75c per column inch.

Classified rates 4c per word. Minimum charge 75c. All charged ads 10c additional.

Unless paid for at advertising rates, we can give no assurance that announcements of plays, parties, rummage sales or any affairs for raising money will appear in a specific issue.

Preference will in all instances be given to editorial matter which has not previously appeared in publication.

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## ONLY YESTERDAY

From The Post of ten and twenty years ago this week.

From the issue of May 15, 1942

George Urlick, Jackson Township, is reported dead from injuries received in Australia. He was one of three brothers in the service, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Urlick.

Bus service for Outlet, Lehman and Huntsville has been approved by Wilkes-Barre Transit, if enough passengers can be signed up to make it practical.

Mrs. James McHale, Truckville, has a sister, Miss Nellie Ward, Staten Island, who escaped narrowly when the Newark-New York City subway train leaped the tracks and overturned, killing five passengers.

Martin is predicted as winner in the sixth district primaries. Pvt. William Edward Simpson says he likes the Aussies fine.

Miss Marietta Ide, Lehman native, died at Sonoma, N. Y. She was buried from the home of her brother, Russell Ide, Idetown.

Elwood Jones has received a commission as Ensign in the Navy. St. Paul's celebrates its seventeenth birthday on Sunday.

Don't worry about gasoline. Ride the hay-wagon to the Lehman Horse Show on Memorial Day.

Smoke-cured bacon, 27 cents per lb; frankfurters, 19 cents per lb; chuck roast, 23 cents per lb; cucumbers, two for 9 Pillsbury's Best Flour, 24 lb sack, \$1.09.

Wanted: a woman to take care of home and ten children. Mrs. Lottie Post died at 82. Before making her home with her daughter she had lived for forty years on Carverton Road.

Dallas Township freshmen in General Science course made a ten mile hike, with the fire tower the high spot of the day.

From the issue of May 13, 1932

The Lindbergh baby is found dead in the woods near his home. A special edition of the Post was gotten out to mark the end of the three month search for the kidnapped child.

Hugh Ransom, Dallas, is taking part in the mock convention at Oberlin, as the delegate from Texas. Bob Bulford will head the Rural League.

This is Friday the Thirteenth.

D. of A. Meeting

Mount Vale Council 224 Daughters of America will meet at the I. O. O. F. Hall, Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. A special effort is being made to get the banner. Transportation will be furnished.

## The Western Grebe

©National Wildlife Federation  
Western Grebe

If there were Olympic Games for birds, Western Grebes would be strong contenders for the gold medals in water sports. The big, long-necked birds can swim and dive with the best.

Almost as quickly as they leave their eggs, young Grebes take to the water. So it isn't because they can't swim that the baby birds often ride on the backs of their parents. The young just enjoy traveling the easy way, says the National Wildlife Federation.

From the very beginning, the Grebes spend their lives on or near the water. Though awkward on land, they show grace and skill when gliding along lakes and ponds.

At the flash of a gun or the snap of a stick, they dive to safety. Leaving only a few ripples on the surface, they can stay under water for long stretches of time.

While this trick helps them to escape from some of their enemies, it did not keep many thousands of Grebes from being killed in years gone by. Before they were given the protection of game laws, Western Grebes were eagerly sought for their silky white feathers. Ruthless hunters bagged them without mercy, just to satisfy the demands for plumes with which to decorate ladies' hats.

For a time there was danger that the slaughter would wipe out the colonies of Western Grebes in all North America. But demands to conserve wildlife came along soon enough to save the birds.

Today the Grebes live in widely scattered places along the western part of our continent. Winter and summer, they are found from Canada to California. In the coldest weather there are more of them to the south, while in the warmer months they push farther north.

Their favorite spots are lakes. Near the water, or on a floating raft of plant material, they build their nests. In May the female lays from three to ten large eggs which are bluish white, cream, or olive-brown in color. The eggs produce young which are covered with down—light gray above and white underneath.

When they grow up, the Grebes are 22 to 29 inches long, with a three-inch bill and a short tail. Their necks are long and slender. The top of their heads, the back of their necks, and their broad backs are black. Their cheeks, the front of their necks, and their under parts are pure, glistening white. Their bills are yellow.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, the birds eat fish and other small water creatures, beetles, and seeds.

Interesting information on other wildlife species may be obtained by writing to the National Wildlife Federation, Washington 10, D. C.

## Kingston Twp.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hanna, Summit Street, Shavertown have left on a motor trip to Natchez, Mississippi, to visit their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Hanna, Jr. and grandson David. William Jr. is stationed with the Navy in Natchez. From Natchez they will all go to Palestine, Texas to visit relatives.

Charlotte Dymond, Carverton Road, has returned to her home after being a patient at the Nesbitt Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stagg, Garden City, Long Island, were Sunday guests of Rev. and Mrs. Russell Edmondson, Maple Street.

Jimmy Keast, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Keast, is ill at his home on Harris Hill Road, Truckville.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams, Main Road, Truckville, announce the birth of a baby boy April 29 in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital.

Novell Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Young, Maple Street, Shavertown, is ill at her home.

Vivian Bedner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Bedner, Hazelton Street, Shavertown, is ill.

Wesleyan Circle of Shavertown Methodist Church met recently at the home of Clara Brown.

Present were: Hazel Honeywell, Lois Williams, Charlotte Wescott, Betty Lamoreaux, Mildred Edwards, Jerry Pope, Betty Rood, Charlotte Remley, Irma Eicke, Shirley Jones, Marian Kattinski, Mrs. Walter Cook and the hostess.

Next meeting will be at the home of Shirley Jones, Maple Street, Shavertown. Shavertown Fire Company

Following Monday evening's membership drive, the monthly meeting

## Barnyard Notes

Don't be stingy with the sunflower seed. Keep your feeders filled and you will have more varied feathered visitors than at any other time of the year.

Among our morning callers are three grey squirrels, a chipmunk, two Eastern Towhees, a pair of Purple Finches, several white-throated and white-crowned sparrows, a junco, fifty-five grosbeaks (actual count), a number of Blue Jays, a pair of Cardinals, a female cowbird, chipping and English Sparrows. Of Robins and Starlings there are plenty but they never stop at the feeders.

In other years we have stopped putting out feed after the foliage appeared, but it was a mistake for transient birds seldom came close enough for observation. The white crowned sparrows are examples.

They breed in southern Greenland, northwest Alaska and northern Manitoba. They are easy to identify among the flocks of other sparrows with which they travel, because of the white crown on the sides of the head which continues over and forward to the base of the bill.

These birds have a peculiar habit of scratching for seeds and insects on the ground like a chicken. This alone makes them easy to identify. They apparently are unafraid of humans for on Sunday I approached several times to within a foot of one that was scratching for sunflower seeds around the base of a stump in the orchard. There must have been twenty-five at our feeders for more than a week.

The cowbird is also another interesting character, though not so desirable; somewhat smaller than a robin, chunky with a sturdy bill, and of drab slate coloring.

The cowbird is nonetheless interesting for it is one of the few birds that does not build its own nest but prefers to lay an egg in the nest of other birds. There the young reach maturity early and crowd out the fledglings of the legitimate owner of the nest. Robins and catbirds will not tolerate this extra egg, either breaking it or throwing it out of the nest. Warblers will build another nest above it; but most birds tolerate the egg and hatch it to their own sorrow and the death of their own offspring.

Originally known as the Buffalo Bird, because of its habit of following great herds of Bison on the prairies, the cowbird now is often seen where cattle graze picking up the grasshoppers and bugs disturbed as the cattle graze.

The Eastern Towhee, or Ground Robin, might at first be confused; but the black markings of the head down to the breast like a cowl and collar and the orange brown sides, make it unmistakable. Like the white-crowned sparrow it is a ground feeder and its continual scratching makes it stand out from the other birds.

So I repeat don't be stingy with the sunflower seeds. You will attract some unusual visitors.

There are many bluebirds in the old apple trees back of my mother's home on Lehman Avenue. Often three or four alight on the telephone wires overlooking our garden but I have never been able to entice a pair to nest in any of the many bluebird houses that we have in the orchard.

With the robins, it is a different story. Three pairs are in for the same trouble they have had in previous years. One insists on raising a brood in a nest above the clothes' line pulley under the eaves of the barn just in sight of our three cats. Another has its nest in the eaves spout and another has a nest three feet above the ground in the rose trellis at the back of the barn. If any robin can think of three worse locations, we'd like to meet her.

Ollie Robinhold is fortunate. A pair of Cardinals have their nest with two young a foot outside her kitchen window seven feet from the ground in an arbor vitae. The old birds both help feed the youngsters, "but usually" says Lola, "mama does the actual feeding. Papa brings the food, passes it to mama who thrusts it down the babies' throats".

Mrs. William Bertels is not so fortunate. She returned home the other day to find that willful neighbors had killed her cardinal. It was lying dead down by the roadside. The male cardinal had made its way back to her lawn where it was also dead. A grey squirrel was also dead. Mrs. Bertels would do well to report such young hoodlums to the State Game Commission offices in Forty Fort. The Game Protectors would make short shift of those who kill game out of season or protected song birds at anytime. No sympathy should be wasted on any kid or his parents who get a stiff fine for such playfulness with a gun.

was held at Shavertown Fire Hall Present were: Robert Williams, with Bob Williams, presiding. It was announced that all those who made contributions will receive their membership card together with a sticker to be placed on the telephone giving the new Fire Company telephone number when the dial system goes into effect.

Joseph Monko, Ted Poad, Bert Stitzer, Allen Austin, Thomas Morgan, Howard Woolbert, Stephen Johnson, Martin Porter, Fred Malkemes, Elwood Dungey, Robert Voelker, Ralph Gerhart, Clyde Brace, John Alexander, John Arnt, Bert Biggs, John Chapple, Rev. Russell Edmondson.

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