

and Region Conservation Authority. Aimed at the owner of farmlands, or of property of an acre or larger, the booklet points out that a good habitat is an absolute necessity for the production of wildlife, and lists 24 of the most useful plants to achieve this.

Author K. M. Mayall of the Department of Planning and Development, Conservation Branch, points out in his introduction — "Farmers are realizing that the presence of a proper balance of nature, with a habitat for many kinds of mammals and birds, will often be a means, sometimes the only means, of controlling insect pests and removing weed seeds."

Most of the plants listed, such as

climbing bitter sweet, sumac, white sweet clover, euonymus, sunflower, mountain ash, and nightshade are spectacular either in their fruit or their flowers, says Mr. Mayall. Although there are between three and four hundred possibilities to choose from, the two illustrated in the booklet are an admirable selection of elderberry pie will be pleased to read that the common elder is among the items recommended. All the plants described are easily obtainable.

The booklet which has plant illustrations by Ron With and bird drawings by John Crosby, may be obtained free of charge from the Authorities' office, Woodbridge, Ontario.

A Christmas Story

contributed by the
Dept. of Evangelism & Social Service
United Church of Canada.

The voice on the telephone was that of a longtime buddy, and at first it sounded like a gag. Because he's not the type of guy to toss gratuitous advice at you.

But there was an urgency in his voice this time as he said, "Look, you can do yourself and a lot of other people a favour if you say something about drinking and driving at Christmas. Sure, I know it's a pretty threadbare subject, but you might make it seem more real to people if you tell them about me."

No, he isn't lying in a traction splint in hospital, wasn't even scratched, as a matter of fact. But during the eternity of a few short seconds last week as he waited for the crash he knew was coming, all the clever slogans he's ever read about mixing liquor and gasoline came suddenly, terrifyingly true.

An this, mind you, is a temperate fellow. In all the years I have known him, I've seen him looped maybe once or twice and only at his own home, where he could hurt neither himself nor anyone else.

But last Friday, when he stayed downtown for the office Christmas party, he came away with one too many under his belt. Not staggering nor even slurring his words, just a short step over the border.

Well, this certainly didn't seem like a time to call a taxi — he'd have felt silly arriving home without the car and explaining to his wife that he didn't think he was in any shape to drive. So he drove.

And everything went fine until he reached the last turn onto the street. He's taken that same corner automatically, without thinking, a thousand times a year, but when he called on his reflexes this time, they weren't listening. He swung wide, sideswiped a phone pole, and came to a stop

on the boulevard.

"You know, it's a funny thing," he said in telling about it on the telephone, "to get in a spot like this and see the reasoning part of your mind sort of standing to one side and examining the automatic part."

I remember clearly, it's about the only thing I remember clearly, realizing that I wasn't going to make it, and thinking to myself, "well I'll be damned, the reactions just aren't there and it's true what they've always said about booze and driving!"

"And once you've got that established, there's a pretty terrible finality about it all. You know how are going to hit something, and you wonder how had it's going to be. And yes, you even have time for remorse."

"As far as I'm concerned this business about your whole life flashing before your eyes when you're in trouble is just so much hogwash, certainly it didn't happen to me, anyway. But I do remember thinking, 'Well, you say — you've got three people waiting for you at home, you've been knocking yourself out to make it a good Christmas for them, and you wash it all out with a caper like this.'"

Well, that's the story... they're no violent, dramatic ending, and it's not a patch on some we'll be reading next week, but that's precisely why it seemed worth telling. Because if it can happen to a temperate person like my chum, it can happen to a temperate person like you.

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Blood Donor Clinic Has Chairman's Thanks

The Editor:
Dear Sir:
On behalf of the members of the local unit of the Canadian Red Cross Society may I take advantage of your paper to express thanks for the wonderful response to our first blood donors clinic.

This clinic was held last Thursday with a good response. There were two sessions, one in the afternoon and another that evening. Well over 300 citizens gave blood, which is considered an excellent turnout. Thanks is due to these public spirited citizens who took part in this life saving service, one which any of us may some day be in need of.

Regarding the actual operation of the clinic, about sixty five persons were handled an hour, which is about average. However it might be pointed out that future clinics would be a great deal speedier for the ones already typed as records of previous donors would then be available and would eliminate any waiting.

As you no doubt are aware, the Blood Donor Clinics were set up with the purpose of replenishing supplies in district hospitals, and as of January 1st, all hospitals, including the Toronto ones will be in the plan, whereby transfusions are available without cost, and without the necessity of having friends or relatives replace it. This as you can readily understand, will be a vast improvement over the old system.

Clinics will be held at regular intervals of about six months, with another one scheduled for May or June.

In closing may I once more thank all those who were donors, and particularly might mention the new subdivisions, where response was very great indeed. Thanks is also due to all those who helped in the organization and operation of the clinic so willingly and so ably.

It seems, Mr. Editor, that as always when there is a need for anything for the public benefit, Georgetown's citizens are most eager and willing to help.

Yours truly,
Leslie M. Clark, chairman
Blood Donors Clinic Committee

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