A prickly subject

The Georgelown Horticultural Society's November meeting will be held next Wednesday, (Nov. 19) at 8 p.m. in Knox Presbyterian Church

Naylor, whose hobby is growing cactus. He will be sharing his enthusiasm for this prickly hobby with Society members and their friends.

Now is the time to renew memberships for 1981. Fee



Holiday grabbag

While contemplating my last four columns for this year, sitting here at my desk and typewriter, I have managed so far to clean out my desk, label files, sort articles into seasonal categories, make out my Christmas list, go to a neighbor's for coffee, service a client's house full of plants and be a day and a half behind schedule with no ideas. Therefore, this column will be made up as we go along, for the holiday season.

Now is the time to start setting your flowering plants to bloom. Chrysanthemums and Poinsettias need a short photoperiod (length of exposure to light) for flowering. If they are not exposed to a 14-hour dark period for approximately 60 to 70 days, they'll never bloom again. Poinsettia does not bloom; it just has colored leaves.

The plants should be covered with any light-free container or placed in a closet from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. amid unbroken darkness (a chore, but well worth it). When color is present, bring out for display.

Relatives or friends who like greenery are likely to be pleased with more or any gift items that are applicable to

Gift categories are numerous. Try decorative containers or vases for flowers. Garden tools can be purchased from the large outdoor type to mini-sets for the indoor gardener. Don't forget the terrarium tools.

Swivel hooks for hangers, hanging ropes, be they home-made or store-bought, pulley systems for high ceilings, new acrylics that give an invisible look.

Sand kits are fun for all ages, artistic or not, whether to do them up beforehand or give them ready to be made up by the "receivee"

ENDLESS LIST As far as charts, books or items with flowers on them, the list is endless for an imaginative mind, so hang green

Purchase a wicker server, load it with fertilizer, leaf shine, ceramic miniatures, spray bottle, etc., and a tiny each, present it wrapped only in ribbon and bow and watch the glow of appreciativeness.

To decorate plants for gift giving, try bows made from waterproof ribbon and complementary colors and designs. Insert birds or garden ornaments in plants. Wrap with aluminum foil or straw baskets. Tie ornaments around the pot to be used later for the Christmas tree. Silks or dried flowers can be added to dish gardens. How about using tiny stuffed toys for children who are interested in plants? Oh, I

am clever, but also running out of paper. Fruit baskets, either plastic for decorative purposes in a nice container or fresh (with or without flowers) for eating is hard to surpass. Just remember to tuck in a small open container of cider vinegar to repel fruit flies.

EXOTIC PLANTS Exotic plants, seeds, herbs, your own cuttings, glass containers for a variety of plant uses, hydroponic herb or tomato gardens will bring great pleasure and for sure sharing of the bounty.

Wreaths, no matter how decorated, befit the slogan of "from our house to your house", as does a small live potted bush or tree to be planted outdoors in the spring. What a remembrance of friendship

For the "I just can't grow greens" types, try silk plants. Not cheap by any means, but "grows" with no personal care, under deplorable conditions and is so life-like. No plastic, please.

Not on the public market (but an excellent gift for the serious greenthumber) is a green-colored, greenhouseshaped container and card file system. Also, I will be available to suggest or make up unusual gift items for thehard to please: for more information, contact me at 838-2527. From here, you're on your own, and the sky's the limit as far as pleasing greenthumbers, so happy green thoughts.

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schedules are as follows Juniors and Seniors \$1. Single membership \$2. Family thusband, wife and all children under 16 years of age) \$3. Last month, Norman

Cramp, a member of the Field Naturalists Group and cofounder of Environmental Experience Club, gave an illustrated lecture about some of the common Ontario wildflowers.

Wildflowers grows in varied locations - meadows, damp and swampy areas, rocky settings, woodlands and roadsides Close-ups of the flowers were shown and then came a general view of the plant growing in its native babitat. Blooming time for the flowers covered spring, summer and fall seasons.

DID YOU KNOW? There are five or six varieties of wild roses growing in Ontario:

One of the more than 50 varieties of goldenrod is called fig-rag goldenrod: The sap of the bloodroot was used by the Indians to decorate

their bodies: Many interesting and beauti ful wild flowers grow below level of the grasses:

Yarrow leaves can be chewed to help relieve indigestion. NOW'S THE TIME Transplant dormant roots of

forcing. Leave them outside until January 1 at least, then bring them inside forcing. Put out bird feeders now, so

rhubarh into containers for

the birds may make a regular feeding pattern before it gets too stormy.

If you have an open-sided feeder that is the favorite meeting place of starlings. pigeons and house sparrows. Try discouraging them by putting out sunflower seeds only. Starlings can't split the seeds or swallow them whole. House sparrows will not take much of it The more attractive birds (chickadees, cardinals, tree sparrows, evening grosbeaks, goldfinches and nuthatches) all can split and enjoy the sunflower seeds. Bluejays like them too, but in spite of their greed, we can tolerate such handsome birds. If you follow the plan, you may be able to reduce your bird feeding costs and still enjoy

the welcome bird species.



FISH STORY

Bazaars were the order of the day Saturday as churches all over Georgetown stacked tables full of homemade goods, baking, and all kinds of odd white elephants. Here, Janie Ryan (background, left) joins her aunt Barbara Layton and sister Chrissle to draw from a bagfull of prizes following a "fishing" contest at the Knox Presbyterian bazaar. Norman and Lynn MacPhail made certain that all anglers kept to their limit. (Herald photo)

Limehouse

McEnerys feted by neighbors

By MRS, A.W. BENTON Herald Correspondent'

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McEnery were honored guests at a presentation of a padded card table and chairs set and a sum of eash on behalf of friends of surrounding communities at Limehouse Memorial Hall Nov.

Progressive euchre was enjoyed with Jack and Inez Crichton holding high scores, John Benton and Lillie Waldie the low. The final of the series of

marathon euchres sponsor-

ed by the W.I. was held Oct.

30 in Limehouse Memorial Hall, high scores being held by Phil Landry and Glendon Scott, Sr. Bob Foster and Jean Anderson won lone hand prizes. Isabel Thompson and

Pearl Burt won high prizes for the series.

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OUR 'ON THE HOMEFRONT' COLUMNIST-SAYS GOODBYE ... AND THANKS

So long, Susan

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is with regret that we report Susan de-Facendis' recent decision to discontinue her weekly "On the Homefront" column in The Herald after more than five years of regular contributions. The Brampton resident informed us last week that she's recently taken on a "challenging, time-consuming, full-time job" which would prevent her continued work as a Herald columnist. On behalf of the Herald staff and readers who came to look forward to and enjoy Susan's often witty, sometimes serious and thought-provoking columns, we'd like to offer her a big. thankyou and a sincere "Hope to hear from you again soon".

By SUSAN DE FACENDIS

Herald Columnist Why is the word 'Goodbye' so hard to say?

I wrote my first column for you September 17, 1975. Insecure, aghast at my temerity, lacking proficiency in grammar and sentence structure, I trembled at the thought of your response to my writing efforts.

Today, five years later, not much has changed. I am still insecure, still aghast at how little I know and sadly acknowledge that grammatical prowess will forever elude my grasp.

One thing is different, however, as I sit down and write this final column. Over the past five years, I have made many new friends. Some are names and voices over the telephone; others came into my life via the mailbox. You told me to get my act together when I was off-base and praised me when you believed I was right, and I thank all of you for taking the time to do so.

As I glance through my files, I am astounded at the ground we have covered.

There were columns about my husband's dream-girl, Sophia Loren, and my own hang-up, Tony Bennett.

I have written about air cadets, brownies and guides; my childhood memories of England and the war; about never winning on the lotteries; Italian food and the marvellous people who prepare it; my parents and brothers; wine-making; house buying; the perils of living with a Mr. Fix-II; the joys of Christmas and my inability to cope with the mechanical world.

You confirmed vehemently that children and drugs were a frightening reality and we explored our mutual helplessness in combatting the problem within the condoning attitude of today's society.

Most of the time, though, I wrote about my children. Maybe because I simply happen to like my children and the people they are becoming - but mainly because raising children is an experience common to all parents.

We all love them and want the best for them. We marvel at the miracutous perfection of them at birth; suffer at their strivings for independence and spend sleepless nights through their sieknesses. We hurt when they hurt, cry for them when they are the victims of school bullies. We laugh at their grade one jokes, then fight to keep the communication lines open through the teenage years. Then, when we finally see them emerge as responsible adults, we realize the parenting patterns are set - the habit of worrying and watching over them will never stop while they, or we, still draw breath.

And so I close my final column tunless the habit of arbitrarily imposing my opinions on you should overwhelm

me). I have had a lot of fun doing them and I hope we have shared a few laughs, or shed an odd tear, together along the

As an admittedly rather old-fashioned person, however, who has always written more from the heart than from logic, the word 'Goodbye' is insufficient to express my thanks and how I feel about our friendship - I prefer the original version of the word, 'God be with you'.



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