

AROUND THE HOUSE

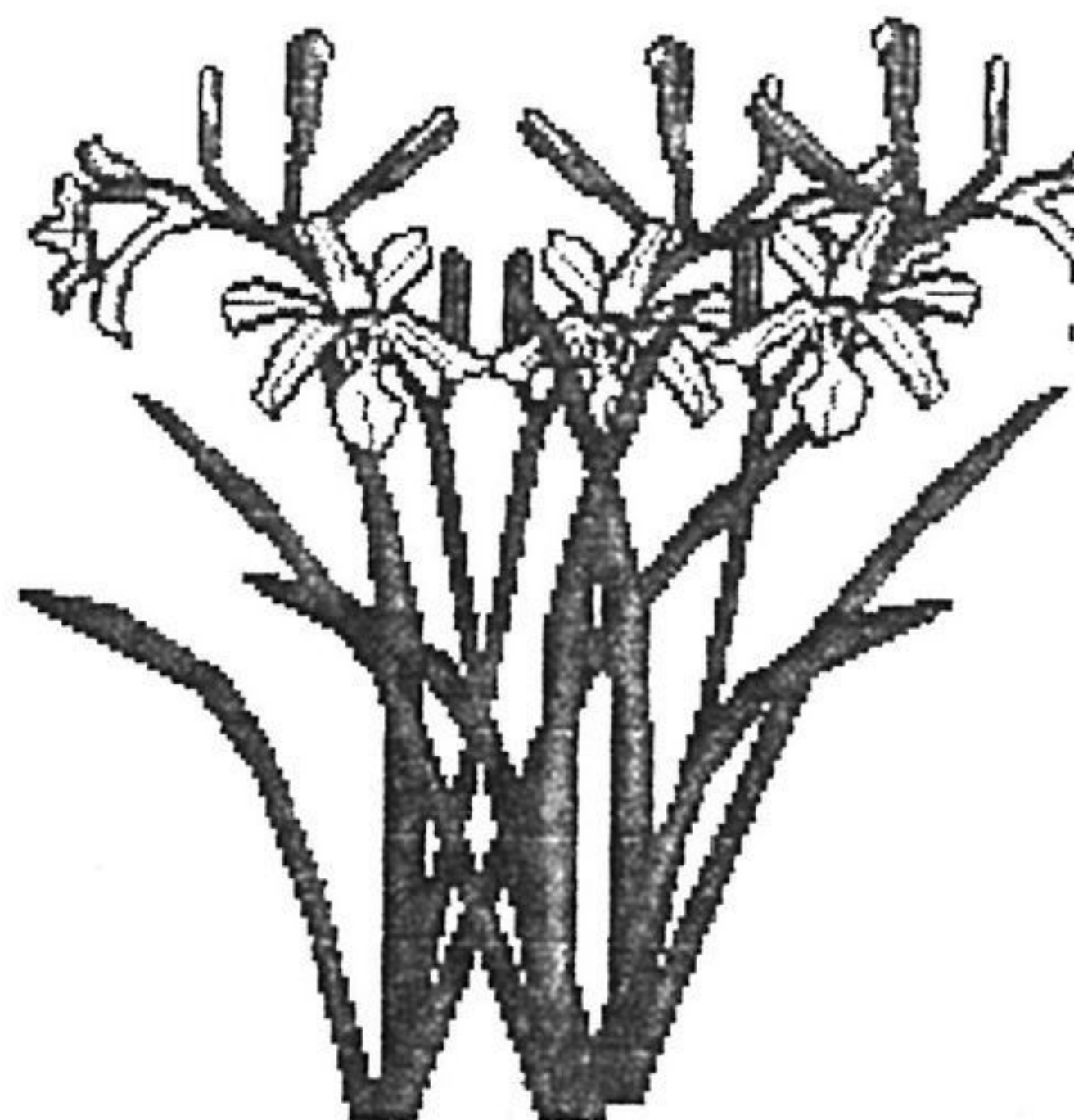
By Bill Brearley

Well, since we last talked the two nests have hatched their eggs. In fact, the little ones have flown away. In the nest over the hydro meter there were two or three young robins - I'm not sure, since I tried to keep away as much as was possible. One day, when I happened to approach quite close to the nest one jumped up on the side of the nest and took, I believe, his first flight, with frantic flapping. He had a sort of glide down to the lawn. This was rather like the first flight of an old style "free flight" model plane, when one carried out an initial powered flight with a controlled glide to make sure it would fly and not stall, or dive into the ground. The next day was a repeat performance by the sibling who had hunkered down in the nest when his brother (or sister) had soloed. No birds have returned to the two old nests, so I must assume a successful upbringing by the parents. Oh, that human offspring were so easy to raise!



The crabapple tree is seeing the building of a new nest by a robin. Perhaps I could christen the front of the house, "Maternity Row"? The front deck has been the nursery for some kittens. This we just discovered a day or so ago. My wife had complained about the smell at the front of the house but I couldn't see anything until the kittens emerged. The cat's presence, perhaps, explains why the rabbits have kept clear of the front of the house. They're off in the bush behind the house, emerging occasionally to chomp my swiss chard! G-r-r-!*

Do you enjoy the roadside wild flowers? Excepting the beautiful but deadly purple loosestrife, I do. Those gorgeous orange day lilies profit by being dug up and spread to other spots. Left to their own desires they will choke themselves out in those huge throngs we see on the roadside. If someone had the energy and could split up the clumps on the side of roads we could in a few (maybe) years have roads lined with day lilies. What a picture that would make! I've tried to break up some of my garden's



yellow lilies. This is a job! It would be nice to get some of the dark orange lilies. I have a few but you really need a clump of them to make a show. I haven't seen any of these in the wild. One idea I'd like to try, is to get some lilies from a mail order catalogue. Then I should plant them near some of the wild lilies and see what happens. The colours of the imports are quite spectacular in the pictures.

Cow vetch, a purple wild flower with foliage somewhat like cedar, is common enough along country roads. This and the ubiquitous light blue chickory, make a pleasing sight in a wildflower garden. Funnily enough the two plantings of wildflower seeds seem to be producing mostly grass! It seems to me local "weeds" are a better source for a wildflower garden than the store bought seed mixes. They, at best are survivors.

* Used permission of Joanna Brearley

**MEMORIES IN MILFORD
THE EMPORIUM**

OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM PARLOUR




**NOW OPEN EVENINGS
UNTIL 9:00 DAILY**




**DROP BY FOR A SWEET TREAT AND
A COLD BEVERAGE AFTER SUPPER
OR YOUR BALL GAME.**