



Summertime, summertime, sum... sum.. summertime. Here at last! And now that the gardens are in and the visitors popping in and out your Library has some lovely new books, serious, escapist and full of calories.

And there are even two books that deal with gardeners like me. Yardening by Jeff and Liz Ball is a "nongardener's guide to creating a beautiful landscape". And its explanations are in simple non-gardening language for a black thumb like me. Dinah Shields and Edwina von Baeyer are even more specific in The Reluctant Gardener. They have produced a "beginner's guide to gardening in Canada". (By the way how many times did you have to buy plants this year?)

Like true life mysteries? Hansen, Meldgaard and Nordquist examine The Greenland Mummies. This discovery of the grave of six women and two children made headlines only last year. Beware: the cover has that horribly fascinating photo of one of the children. In the same vein, David C. Woodman tackles the Franklin expedition. Unravelling the Franklin Mystery - Inuit Testimony examines the Inuit tales of that time regarding white men who lived with them. These tales were ignored by the later teams who dealt with Franklin. Woodman also argues against the traditionally held theory that the men died from lead poisoning. (Remember: their food was stored in lead - soldered tin cans).

Too serious for you? We have a large print copy of Rosamunde Pilcher's Another View. Sally Armstrong's Mila and Preston Manning's New Canada are also in. (These two are either serious or escapist, depending on your point of view.) James Cross Giblin has a "serious" look at The Truth About Unicorns. And that master of serious fluff, Dominick Dunne, has collected some of his Vanity Fair articles on the rich and notorious in Mansions of Limbo. (Where did this sooo symbolic title come from?) Actually, for these kinds of articles, Dominick Dunne is really quite good - a sort of light-hearted Norman Mailer (Sorry Norman).

Still discussing Ken Burns' the Civil War? Read all three of Jonn Jakes Civil War series? Hunger not yet satisfied. Try Tom Wicker's Unto this Hour, a massive tome dealing

with August 28 - 30, 1862 and the Second Manassas Battle.

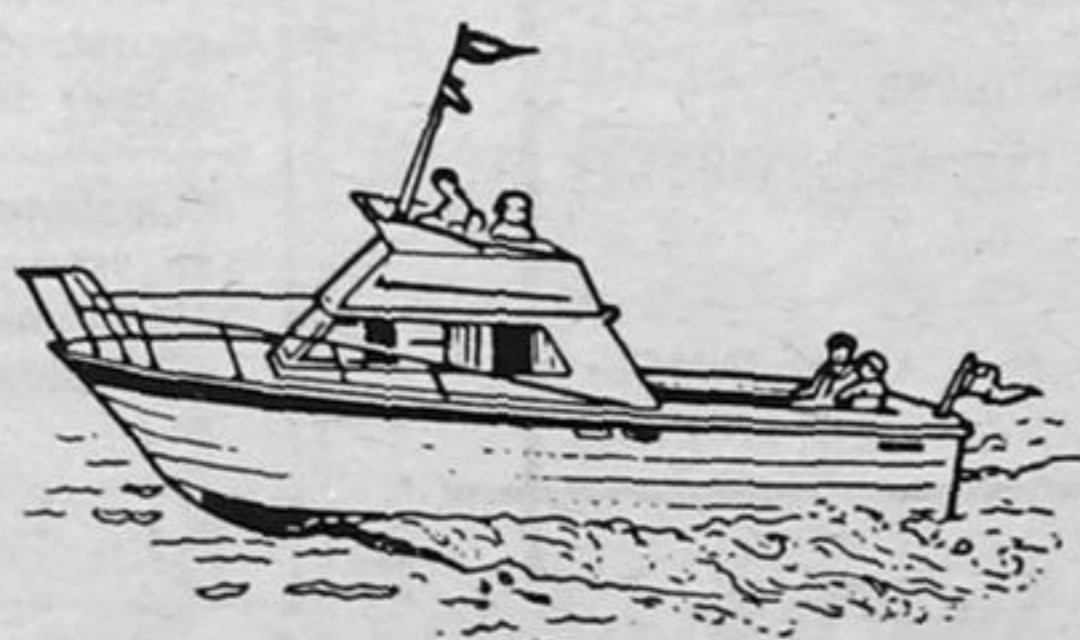
Last summer it was Robin Hood - this summer it's Batman. What about the bad guys? Richard Kluger has written a defense of The Sheriff of Nottingham; not the evil, vicious character we've all come to hate, but rather a poor misunderstood lad, as misunderstood by history as his master, King John. (Interesting to note, that by today's standards, K.J. would have been cheered as a great leader and parliamentarian. It was his misfortune to be born 800 years too early.)

Want to run away to Italy? Tim Parks does and writes about it in Italian Neighbours, an Englishman in Verona. (How come nobody runs away to Moose Factory?)

And now for the calories (-did you know that if you chant "Calories begone" over and over while baking, they do). Marie Simmons gives us Rice - The Amazing Grain. So go directly to the Quick Chocolate Rice pudding recipe. For those more health conscious, try creamy rice with tangoes and pistachios. Diana Kennedy's The Tortilla Book not only has easy to follow step by step recipes but includes an end chapter on where to get mexican ingredients - including the name, address and telephone number of a store in Ottawa!!!

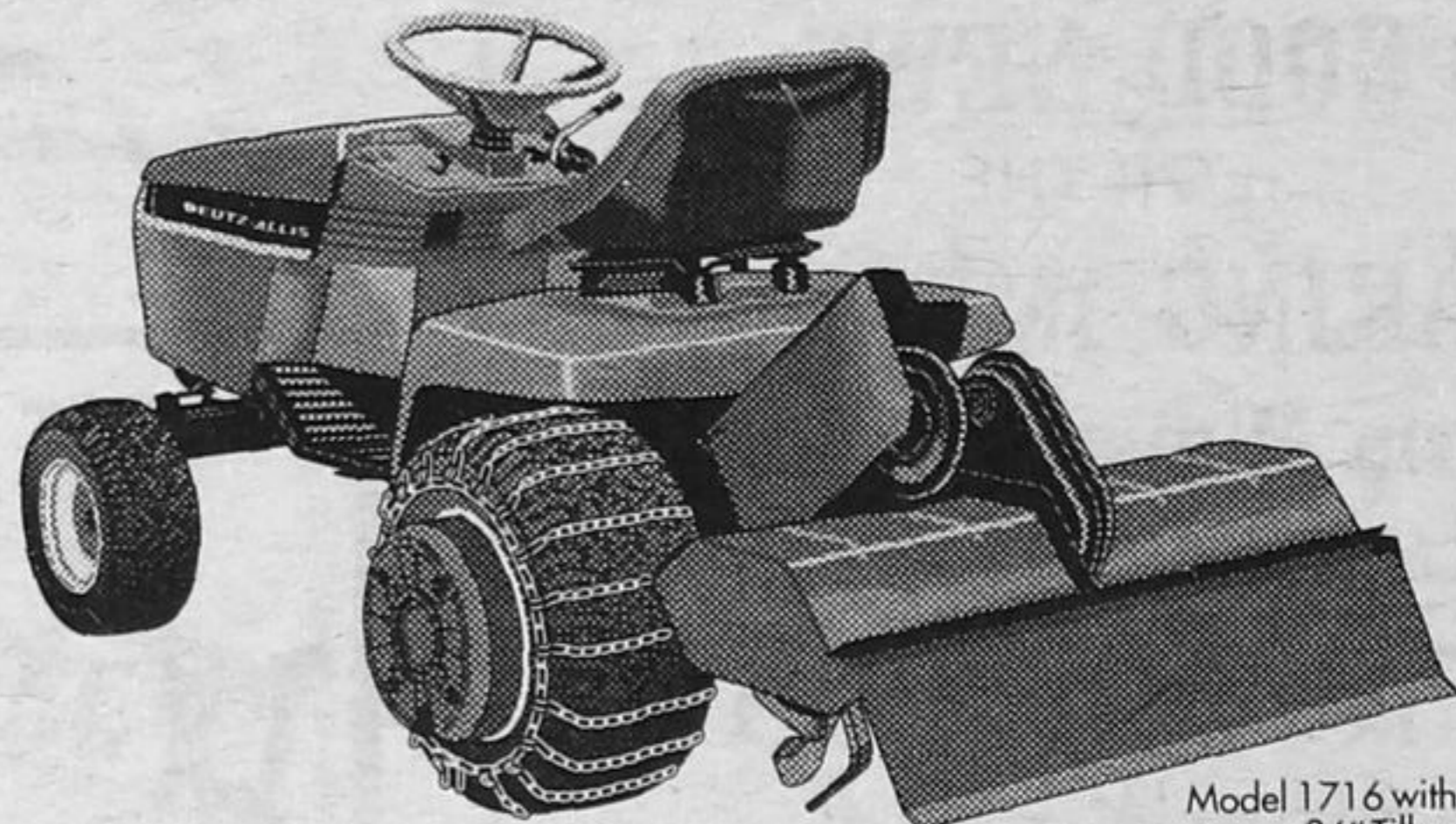
In one of the last things he did before his death, Roald Dahl with his wife Felicity and his children produced Memories with Food at Gypsy House. Delicious recipes (remember to chant while reading these!), lovely pictures are interspersed with family stories. A nice read.

A final recommendation. Growing Older, Getting Better by Jane Porcino is subtitled "Handbook for Women in the Second Half of Life". Reminiscent of "Our Bodies Ourselves", it has sections on health, common afflictions, osteoporosis, as well as financial independence, joining groups and contains some excellent practical advice. So this is it for the summer. Remember the Book Sale, July 11. Remember to sign up the kids for the Reading Club. Remember to take care while enjoying the summer. See you in September.



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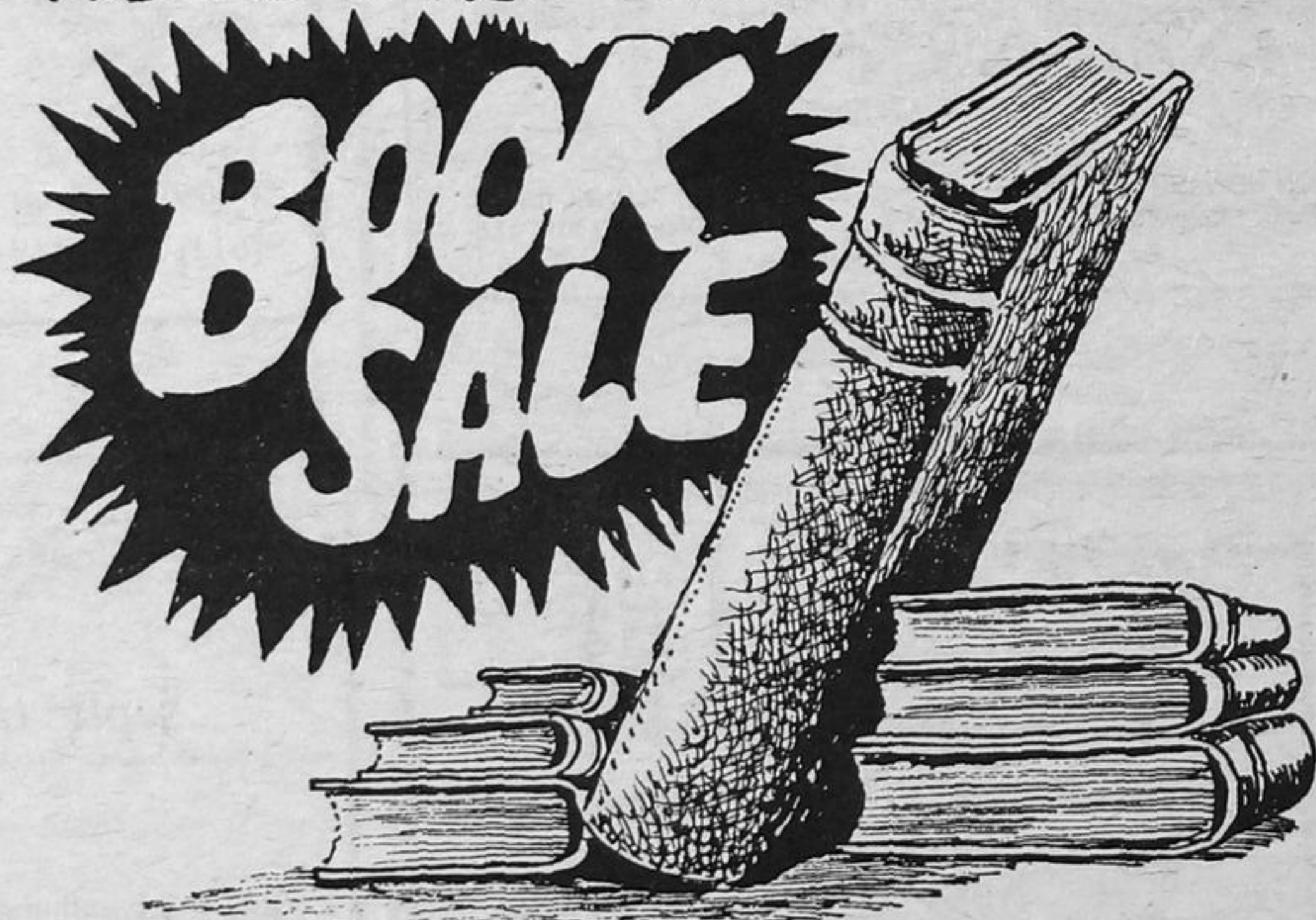
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