

The Color of Blood by Brian Moore.

'Do you not think it a grievous sin for men of God to act like terrorists?', Cardinal Bem was asked. And being a good man, he answered, 'Yes', and paid accordingly. Set in Eastern Europe, this taut little thriller once again proves Brian Moore to be one of the finest novelists around. All quite red, if not exactly Christmassy.

JR

The Making of the African Queen by Katharine Hepburn.

Katharine Hepburn's memory serves her well, in this her first book, as she recalls her love of adventure and the fun she had, albeit certain frustrations, during the filming of the African Queen. She has included some great pictures of Rosie and Charlie Alnutt and of the old steam-boat, taken in the heart of the African jungle.

JR

Paddle to the Amazon by Don Starkell and Charles Wilkins.

As the dust-cover says, it was an ordinary 21 ft. fibreglass canoe, an ordinary family, a divorced father and two teenaged sons, but an extraordinary journey. From their home in Winnipeg, they paddled down the Mississippi, along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, up the Orinoco river and down the Amazon to Belem at its mouth and not a soul to greet them. 12,000 miles and 23 months, looking the worse for wear and lucky to be alive, they had achieved what they set out to do and acquired a whole new understanding of life and of themselves. a truly epic journey.

JR

Dead Man's Mooring by Bill Knox.

The fishermen of Sonas Bay on the Island of Skye are enmeshed in war with a Canadian developer who is apparently intent upon taking over their land and waters for his own dark purpose. Webb Carrick, skipper of a fishery patrol launch is sent to settle the dispute. Dead bodies appear, skulduggery is rife and the pace increases until in a raging storm Carrick discovers the reason for the upheaval. Scattered with sea going terms that may bewilder the landlubbers among us, it is a fast moving story that builds up to an exciting finish.

BS

Deadly Sonata by Paul Myers.

One critic said that "Paul Myers bids fair to becoming to music what Dick Francis is to racing". His prediction is becoming a happy fact. The fourth of his musical thriller books is tense and as full of excitement as the first three. In this case Viktor Kavarin a brilliant young Russian pianist persuades Mark Holland to help him and his sister to escape to the Western world. Mark agrees but violence follows them all the way and in the end the plot has an unexpected twist, naturally! Good reading, if you enjoy it try any of the others listed on the back cover of this book.

BS

GARDENING LETTERS

by Doug Green

As this is the Christmas edition of the Lantern, I thought I would wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Andrea and I and all of our children hope that the Christmas spirit will visit your homes this year.

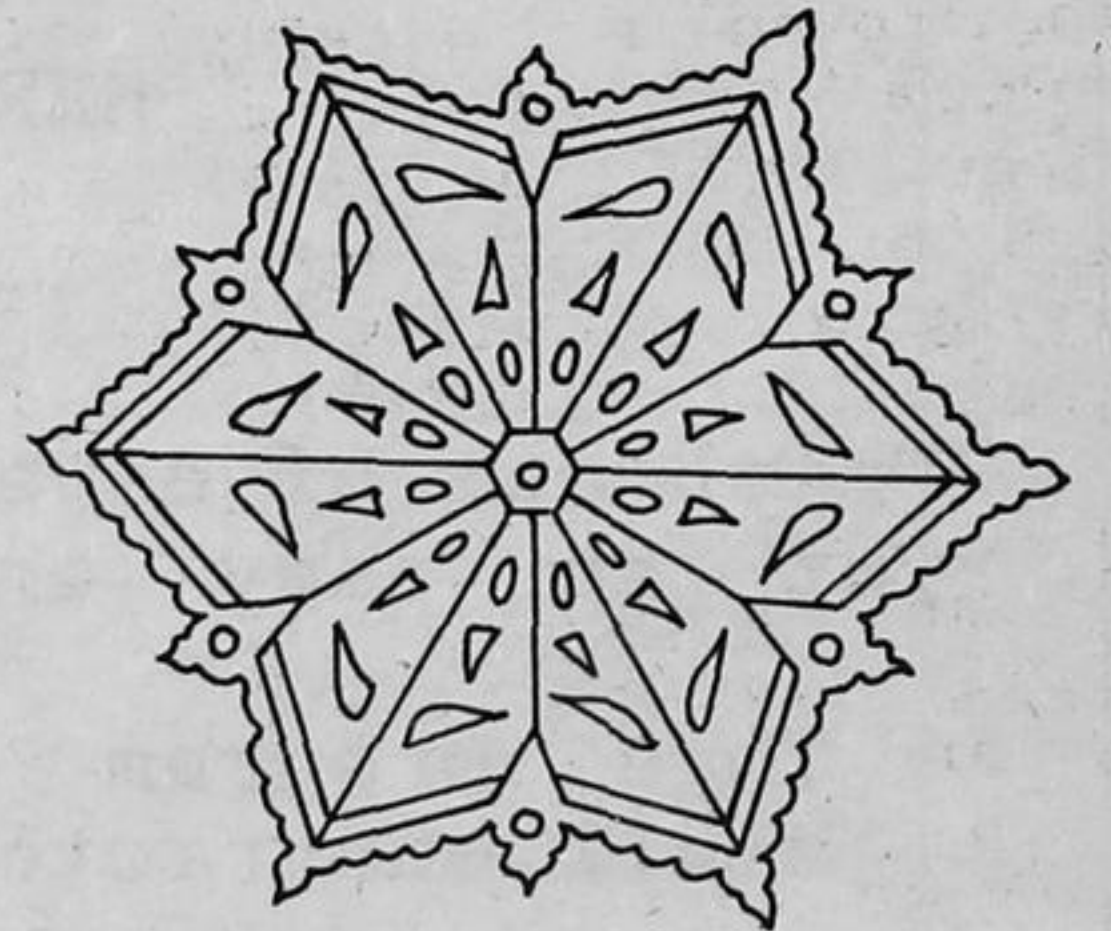
Sometimes it's hard writing a gardening column at Christmas time because it seems that Poinsettias are the flower to be talked about and every year it seems I have focussed on some aspect of growing this plant. Having gotten that sentence strung out, let me say only one thing about poinsettias this year. They are not poisonous. This canard has circulated for many years after a child got sick during the Christmas season. There was some uncertainty about whether or not the child actually ate a leaf, but blaming the plant was easy. Poinsettias may be irritating to the gastro-intestinal tract but apparently you have to eat almost the entire plant before you'd get a serious stomach ache. Let me suggest that if anyone actually eats a whole poinsettia plant they deserve a stomach ache. The modern varieties keep better than the older ones but give the plant lots of light, keep it out of drafts and keep it slightly damp. There, I've said enough about poinsettias. Enjoy them.

Last month, I wrote about Johnny's seed company and suggested that you write them for their catalogue. I also gave you the results of our tomato taste tests. This month, I thought that I would give you the results of some of our flower trials. As usual, we grew several different kinds of Marigolds for trial purposes. Our overall winner was the Perfection series. This is a new Marigold for the 18" size range. It will

be available for the trade this year and we will be using it to replace the Space Age (Moonshot and Apollo) series. The Perfections (Yellow, Gold and Orange) had good size flowers, held their flowers upright and did not fall over like the Space Age series. Compared to the Inca series which we have also sold, the Perfections held their flowers more upright and did not have the green centres common to the Incas. Some of our early customers bought some extras before the Space Age series so the colours must be nicer than the old ones. The dainty Marietta marigold was interesting, it had tiny flowers and bloomed madly except for the mid-summer doldrums when it slowed down considerably. A shorter marigold, it is great for rock gardens. Burpees White Marigold was a disaster. It started growing very well and then seemed to peter out before really setting a lot of flowers. It was really gangly in the greenhouses before it got planted out. Do not look for this one again.

Superstar hybrid was another trial planting that did really well for us here and yellow-gold colour was a knockout. I am not sure if this has been released to the trade yet but if it has, look for it in the seed catalogues or greenhouses where you shop. Aurora Gold was another big winner for us here last summer, it's a mid size plant and has been released to the trade so you'll see it in the greenhouses next spring. In the short categories, we have not found anything to compare to the Boy series although the seed companies are promising something for us to try this year which they claim will be better. We'll keep you posted. We also grew some Tithonia this year for the first time. This

plant grew to about 36 inches tall, with huge Yellow-red single dahlia type blooms. It started blooming at the end of June and never stopped for the rest of the summer. It turned into a veritable bush in size and the blooms were medium heavy all over the plant. Its stem is brittle though and one of the big windstorms early in the summer knocked it over. It recovered from this by resprouting from the lower half. If you garden in a windy area, you may want to stake it or grow it in a tomato cage. I have never really spent a lot of time growing Four O'Clocks but this year, Andrea put a row of them in front of the Tithonia and they were splendid. I think we'll grow a lot of them next year. A really nice foliage plant also did well, the Dark Ruffles Basil made a nice dark purple foliage tucked up against some Paprika Marigolds. The nice thing about this plant is that you eat it as well. The Polka Dot Plant which is well known to windowsill gardeners made a good show in the bedding plant outdoor beds. I'm not really keen on the pink colour, but if it's your thing - try this plant for something different. Those are a few of the better plants that we grew last year and which did really well for us. You may want to try a few of them too. As I said at the beginning of the article, I hope that your Christmas is a good one. Merry Christmas.



CLC

P.O. Box 189 Elgin On K0G 1E0 359-5159

YOUR CHRISTIAN SUPPLY CENTRE

Hours:
Mon-Fri. 9-5
Sat. 9-Noon

Christmas Gifts, Cards, Bibles,
Sunday School Gifts and Awards,
Music, Cassettes, Books on Cassette,
Videos for all ages.

Come choose your GIFT from under
our Christmas tree. Now in stock
HOSANNA PRAISE AND WORSHIP TAPE.