

Simply Gardening

by Doug Green

Some of you may know the name Robert Rodale. As publisher of Organic Gardening Magazine, he owned the largest gardening publishing business in the USA. A leader in the field of organic gardening, he was killed on a trip to Russia. Over there to consolidate some joint agricultural publishing ventures, he died in a car accident on the way to the airport on his way home. His Russian business partner, translator and driver also were killed. Those of you who have used organic techniques or have read the magazine will have been influenced by his vision of the world and by his leadership in making this world a better and more humane place. Whether we knew him or not, we will miss him.

Bob Rodale stood for making the world a little saner place, for taking control of your own environment and life. For living a healthier, more relaxed, more community oriented lifestyle. I guess many of us have moved into our Eastern Ontario homes for many of the same reasons.

Gardening is a great activity in which to remember people. I have plants in my garden which remind me of relatives and friends. My apple orchard that was planted this spring reminds me of my grandfather. His orchard was full of apples and pear trees. The pears were a hard, crisp variety that snapped when you bit into them, pears in our family are still judged against Grandpa Boy's

pears- do they snap or do they sludge. I hope our old fashioned pear varieties snap when they start bearing. His apple trees each contained several varieties and as young boys, my brother and I were not above sampling a few of them as they matured. Our garden this year had some heritage plants, our geraniums and other gifts from friends. We have two roses growing in the nursery which have histories we will share with our garden visitors. A peony is almost big enough to move into the main border to delight us with its memories. Our garden is becoming a living entity, a place of memories and special plants- not just a repository for colour during the summer.

As I grow a little older each year, my garden becomes more important to me. It becomes a living reminder of how I want my world to be ordered. I want a world without a dependence on chemical solutions. A world or garden which encourages me to take the time to work on its individual problems, to see the entire garden as a working whole system. Each year my garden gets better. Not because I am a better gardener (though I hope I am) but because I care more about it with each passing year. The older I get, the better I feel about taking the time to work in the garden, to sit and quietly enjoy the flowers. The older I get, the less likely I am to

physically be able to whirlwind blitz the weeds without enjoying the flowers. The knees just don't work fast enough any more so I slow down and begin to learn how to appreciate everything that is in my garden. Having had pneumonia this summer I was forced to slow down more than I might have liked. The benefit of this however was that I learned more about my plants this summer than in any other previous summer. Robert Rodale's message was that we all had to slow down and take control of our lives and communities. To learn more about ourselves and our neighbours and to enjoy the real benefits of living a healthy, chemical dependence free life.

I would like to think that we listened.



I love November!

Good old November! November ... when the latest Dick Francis novel hits the shelves. And this year's Longshot has gotten really great reviews. Yes, sir; I can hardly wait to get my hands on it ... What? What's that? I'm third on the list! THIRD!! How did that happen? Are there no advantages to being The Reviewer? (Deep sigh!) Ah, well.

Meanwhile, I'll console myself with the newest Laurence Block: A Ticket to Boneyard. Then, I'll tackle Susan Kay's version of Phantom. (The Paris Opera has never been this haunted!) Craig Thomas is always good for a terse read. His Last Raven should be no exception.

Did you watch American TV's version of the combined "Chances" and "Lucky" by Jackie Collins? Did you really? I promise I won't tell anyone you did. Now you can catch up on Lucky's life with the third book, Lady Boss. (And you mock my reading Harlequin Romances! Have you no shame!)

For Canadian content, try W.O. Mitchell and Roses are Difficult Here. I didn't much like his previous book, but this one has more of the old W.O. Mitchell. Scott Young, the Pierre Berton of hockey, has given us Boys of Saturday Night; all about the "boys" (Don't sports ever produce "men"?) who bring hockey into our homes via radio and television. And Laurie Lapierre explains 1759: The Battle for Canada as he sees it.

Clifford Irving, remember him? (Boy, does that date you!) He's the one who wrote the unauthorized "official" Howard Hughes bio and ended up in jail for fraud. Well, he's back with Trial. Which is not about his day in court.

The Library has two new books in the Eyewitness Books series: Flying Machines and Cars. These are great books, and not only for the kids. And for the parent who loves to read with a child, try Ruth Hiller's two new "grammar" books: the one on verbs, Kites Sail High; the other on adjectives, Many Luscious Lollipops. Lovely books!!

Note to teachers: the Library has received a video on AIDS which is accompanied by a Study Guide. Take a look at it!

Well, that's it for this month. A final note to those two people in front of me for Longshot. HURRY UP! Thank you. Jose Mann



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