

Hi! Gosh, winter is coming down on us faster than the calendar allows! Altho there has been a wee dusting of frost along the trails a hardy butter "n egg plant still snuggles close to a warm stone wall. The fields are dusted with the fleathery seed pods of the lowly lavender asters. Small fruit trees are dotted with the freeze dried fruit for winter feeding, while the rustle of leaves under foot is entirely satisfactory. The tassle seeds of pampas grass is silver in the sun-- a lovely autumn graceful beauty. Two days after a killing frost, Fearless Leader sought, and found, some crickets who will appear on T.V. (Channel 36. Jan. '77) where they will accurately tell the temperature. Under the TV lights it should be hot! One counts the chirps per minute, add a mystical number, and voila! the temp. in Fahrenheit. Now we await the the first snow storm to tell us the number of storms we shall have. "They" say if it snows first on the 10th, ten storms: on the 28th, 28 storms, etc. 'Tis also said the ponds must be full before it freezes. If that is so we shall have a lot of rain before we use our skates! Some other folklore signs of a rough winter are: when tree leaves fall late--a late frost-- two frosts close together-- a long hot summer--if the husks on nuts and corn grow thick and tight--rolling thunder in the fall! Where were you when our Island was bombed by electricity last month?

Geese have been seen flying over, early, and in greater numbers than in other years. One huge flight of Blues, very rare to native eyes. Simply loads of chin-strapped Canadas (special loves thanks to last year's gimpy legged gal). A male goose is a gander, a female is a goose, a baby is a gosling. Geese in a group on the ground are a gaggle, on the water--a raft, and in the sky a skein. Unlike ducks & swans, geese have teeth--or did you know all that?

* * *

Correction please. The next eclipse of the sun will be on February 26th ' next. The error was due to misinformation from Radio City, NY. Maybe they meant that there wouldn't be an eclipse visible from Radio City until 2100. The next one will be visible from Hudson's Bay. If you plan to go. Long Johns are in order--two pair to be safe.

* * *

How do you feel about nuclear power? Do you want to speak to the U.S. Agency which has in mind nuclear plants in Charlestown R.I? If you do so wish, call Mrs. J.H. Doherty 846-3937. Keep at it--she's a busy gal. Or pick up your application blank at The Farm Museum. Why our Government agencies persist in sticking with nuclear power--fission--when there's not one plant in our country that functions at over 10% capacity without cracking, and when fussion is safe, clean and cheaper, is beyond understanding! (Fission is the breaking down of atoms, leaving energy and a residue that is radio active fo. 250,000 years. plus other things like "hot sites. Fussion binds atoms together leaving energy, hydrogen and oxygen!) Did you notice during the last political campaign not one major candidate mentioned "energy"? If we ignore it too, do you suppose it will go away?

* * *

The eirie is almost finished. It lacks only its pointy roof and a door. Then own 3 hawks will be released from their jesses and in the big cage they can, at least hop and flap about a bit. Each one has a broken wing--shot by people who have nothing better to do. Anyway, the cage will be better than being tied to a stump. Hawks are passerines--sitting birds. They fly to hunt.

In a few weeks we shall be digging & pouring the floor of the new barn. Then, because we have the siding, we shall have a Barn Raising Day! Everyone who can drive a nail and has ever heard of a plumb line, is invited to attend. Great fun. Brown bag it--we'll make the coffee and trot out the six-packs. When the sides are up, because this building will be a multi-service building, we shall need professional help. So we'll have a fund raising to pay for the services of plumber, electrician, insulation, heat and glazier plus equipment. This barn will house: 1-the tractor; 2-electrophoresis lab (studies); 3- freeze dry unit (income for NBS); 4- Intensive Care Unit (for wounded animals); 5- cages for recovered animals; 6- a rat proof room to store bird seed by the ton (to sell cheap-cheap to our members.) We'll set the date of the Barn Raising when the foundations are ready--you'll hear from us!

* * *

Don't forget Open House December 4 & 5 from 1-4 pm. Bring the children to see the shows, your neighbours to see the Sanct and enough money to buy, at least, a Christmas goodie. Also, for that absolutely impossible-to-give-a-gift-to-person on your list, the perfect gift will be found in the Sanctuary's Book Shop--all sorts of gifts, not only books!

* * *

Paul Dudley White, renowned cardiac doctor, said that the chief hazards to a man 25 years of age or older are, his car, his TV set, and his wife who cooks for him! He could not stress too much the need for physical exercise. It is interesting to note that almost one out of every ten entrants in this year's Boston marathon was a doctor. It is not given to all of us to jog, but to us Norman Bird Sanctuarians there are 15 miles of trails, some short and flat, some involve climbing a bit, but all of them are good trails in excellent condition. Why not enjoy a turn around over the nice weekends ahead? Even when it's cold and windy, it is still and lovely in the forest. Once you get down hill into the woods it is simply lovely! All your senses come alive. When you exercise your corpus delicious, you feel well, think well and look well. Remember the Arabic saying, "Every man has two doctors, his right foot and his left." Put one in front of the other for a mile or two. "S'wonderful!"

* * *

There are dead loons by the hundreds along the shores of Lake Michigan. It is the season of "water turn" when the cold air temperatures from the north chills the warm water on the lake surface and causes it to sink. This forces the warmer water underneath the surface to rise, bringing up with it all the poisons of the lake. In this case they include arsenic, mercury, lead etc. It may easily be this that has killed the loons. Still humans drink it!

* * *

Peregrin falcons have been successfully reared from eggs, and the young ones have been returned to the wild. Altho their home was in Montana, where and when they are released is kept a secret, told to no one. Some people like to plink and plunk with guns.

* * *

Remember the Hereford cattle that received nuclear fallout in N.M. back in the 50s when we tested our bombs there? They turned grey remember? They, their off spring and their off springs off springs have been studied and dissected to determine abnormalities. None have been found in lo! these many generations. It was feared that bovine-oids would appear. None has. Incidentally, the children of the grey ones were the familiar red-brown and white of all Hereford cattle.

1 you know that white potatoes were discovered by Portuguese explorers in
n? They took them to Europe, where it became a fad to show your approval
of the spud by wearing a flower as a boutonniere. From Europe it was just a
hop to Ireland. It was the Irish who brought them to the Colonies. Do you
realize that squash is a American Indian vegetable and still is unknown in
many parts of Europe? We should export butternuts!

* * *

cleared \$1500.00 on the Harvest Fair. Our Fair Leader refused her fee!
What nice people there are connected with our Sanctuary!

* * *

One reason why champagne is so expensive is the price of the cork! Cork is
the bark of the cork tree and they grow mostly in Portugal. A cork that
will withstand the pressures of the bubbly must grow for 50 years before
it is long enough--or thick enough--to become a holding cork. Before the
fad of cork-backed this and that and cork soled shoes the price of a cork
to the vintner was .50¢ a piece. Thanks to the cork the gals are walking on
the price is up!

Our native vineyards are doing well. They will produce Narragansett Whites and
Rhode Island Reds. In the future when we speak of R.I. Reds we shall have to
specify, hens, wines or hockey team.

* * *

Dear old Smokie The Bear is dead--old age. He spent 26 years in service to
his country as a reminder of the dangers of forest fires. He was himself
found in a fire, scorched and exhausted, nursed back to life to become a
national symbol that everyone loved. In death he will continue his work as
his burial site will be a park to remind people--"fire is a good servant!"
Just think that there is a whole segment of our society to whom the name
Smokie means a cop, not a bear! But we shall not forget!

* * *

Between Now And New Year's Day---

Stop a quarrel. Remember a forgotten friend. Write a letter. Dismiss your
suspicions and replace them with trust. Share a treasure, a beauty of sight
or sound. Give a soft answer. Keep a promise. Encourage a child. Make time.
Forego yourself, think of others first. Listen. Apologize. Examine yourself
and your demands on others. Replace envy with joy for another's good fortune.
Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Remember you are not always right. Laugh a
little more each day. Earn confidence by being loyal. Say "Please" and "Thank You"
Worship your God. Gladden someone's heart. Take pleasure in the wonders of the
earth and sky. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once more. And
still once more again. By New Year's Day all this will be a habit that will
be hard to break.

* * *

If you are moving, please give your new address to the office 876-2577. The
Norman Bird, Flyer, is second class mail and will not be forwarded. You do
not want to miss these jewels, do you! We don't want you to go.

* * *

When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade. Or cook it with sugar and make
marmalade.