

Hi! The autumn leaves came tumbling down in the rains of November. They lay like a huge crazy quilt, in billows across the trails, and blew in the wind on the ponds. After several days of glorious colour, they turned brown and started their complicated way back to top soil again. Even now, there are a few green leaves of wild strawberries poking through, untouched by frost, uneaten by rabbit. October ended with the delighted screams of 163 kids at a horror party on Halloween. The Ed Shed was converted into a darkened alchemist's shop full of coffins from which weird corpses arose, whose bones glowed with fluorescent paint. On the shelves were vials full of worms, cuts, blood and eyes--at least that what the labels read! After a chilling visit to the Ed Shed, the children were treated to horror movies, hay rides, games & food. In early November the pets were distributed to various winter homes, or brought inside the Barn. In late Nov. Hooted disappeared. There were black thoughts about people who steal pets. Eleven days later she was found! This merited an article in The Newport Daily News! It's nice to think she is so well known. When she was found she was given a lovely dinner of raw liver and has been kissed and coo-ed over ever since. Mr. Bloomerton really did escape! Much worry was expressed as he had never fed himself. The question was, could he? He could! He came back to Drury Ct., sat on the antlers over the Barn door and surveyed his former friends. Gone from the Court are several bantams, a quinea hen, an overfat rabbit and several aged pigeons. He's eating O.K.! A larger predator got our R.I. Red rooster, so the girls are squired now by a fighting game cock, sans spurs. Eggs are beginning to appear. Wisteria Mood Indigo (snake) lost her mouth infection with the advent of warm weather. She had a good summer, but we fear that infection will return with winter. The goose eggs of last spring never had a chance to hatch. Probably raccoons or foxes got them. Each morning now Fearless Leader sets forth with corn and hatchet, to feed the geese and break the ice on Cerio Pond. To protect themselves the blackberry canes have put on their coating of wax. Just how cold a winter will it be? Nature has been more generous than usual in supplying food--branches are still heavy with fruit.

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The Sanet. is acquiring a second hand prefab barn! Bits & pieces of it are being stacked up behind the Barn Museum. It will serve as shelter for the large equipment needed to manage 450 acres of land. Also it will shelter the truly sick animals and birds. We have now a hawk some nitwit shot. It was brought in starving, wounded and gangrenous. There is little hope for it's survival.

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160 Canada geese dead on Easton's Pond! Fearless Leader says this mystery happens every few years. The bodies are sent to pathologists who have found some lead in the long bones, but none in the gizzards. So the birds have not died from eating lead. Perhaps they fly over some poisonous gases as they approach our Island (except that some years there are swans among them). So the mystery remains. There have been great flights of geese this year. Some 200 fed in the pastures of Hammersmith Farm. It was good to see how many people stopped to watch them with great interest.

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So Pioneer X1 got to Jupiter! Isn't it incredible? How would you like to live on a planet that has had a hurricane raging for 400 yrs? Or be a pop-song writer there, where there maybe a June but surely are 13 moons? Pioneer is traveling faster than any manmade object ever has, at 100,070 m.p.h.

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Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the last of the Eisenhower boys, was asked if life was better back on the farm in Abilene. He answered "How do you compare apples and cows?" It was different. "Life didn't have such affluence or so many problems." It had its problems, of a different nature. People didn't hear of others' problems so quickly or so

graphically. In old Abilene there were no pictures of skinny Indian children on T.V. screens--no TV! The last famine in India was in 1965. Nature is now adding earthquakes to famine there. It must be trying to tell people something. In mid-18th Cent. it is figured there were 1 billion people on Earth, in 1960 there were 3 billion, and in 1985 there will be 10 billion. In 1965 we, the people of USA, sent the largest peacetime fleet of boats ever launched, filled with grain for the people of India--free. Did it do good? Or did it do harm?

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The Audubon Bird Count was held in mid-December. There were 77 species living with us this winter. The most interesting were the King Eider duck, and a peregrin falcon, both sighted in our part of the world. Have you noticed the numbers of cat-birds still around after Christmas? They're fruit eaters!

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An apple a day, apparently can keep the Dr. away if it is eaten properly! Each one contains some antibiotic. It is in the flesh that lies directly between the core and the stem! That's the part that is merrily pared away when preparing apples for pies & sauce. Keep it in, in the future.

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Cornell U. runs a radio station in Puerto Rico. It beams signals to other planets to see if there is a response. The furthest point the beams reach is 26 light yrs. away. A light year is as long as it takes a beam of light to travel one year--6 trillion miles. So, multiply 6 trillion by 24 and you can fully comprehend the distance the radio beams travel. No?

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A modern housewife in 1974 spends 55 hours a week doing her house work. Her gran'ma did it in 51 hours! Just think on the hours spent in supermarkets! Gran'ma's groceries came to the door by cart. Her laundry was compiled of linen or cotton so she could put the whole bit on the stove to boil--no need to sort the various fabrics, and wash them separately! She was not a chauffeur or a bookkeeper. She did have to remember the drip pan under the ice box, but spent so hours defrosting it and the freezer! Her oven was always ready. Her mother did have one horrid job--to clean the chimneys, trim the wicks and fill the lamps with oil, each day.

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Andrew Wyeth's painting in tempera called "Thin Ice" (Nagaoka Museum, Japan) is a remarkable work showing leaves & twigs trapped under a layer of ice. There are beige to gold tones, browns that go to black, and a suggestion of a dark green, and the white of air bubbles under the ice. How different are the winters in Cushing, Maine from the winters in the Sanct.! Here we invariably have a scarlet or orange berry or a bit of brilliant bark and a jade green leaf, trapped in our ice pockets!

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Do you realize that 40-50 million people could eat well on the grain that is used to make booze for this country? How about trying the product of the grape when next you entertain? Equal parts: white wine, champagne and one fourth part brandy chilled, will produce a superhappy mood. To control the happiness add one bottle of club soda. To keep you from the poor house, make all products domestic. (There's an awful lot of garlic in the new wheat crop! The floods of spring swept wild garlic buds here & there, with quantities ending up in wheat fields!)

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Timber wolves have been transplanted from Minn. to Michigan to see if they will settle there. They all have electronic collars for monitoring from the air. Two males were killed, one by hit & run and one by hunter. There's a \$1,000 reward out for him! The rest seem to have settled into Michigan allright. A Dwanish Indian chief who lived 1786-1855 said, "What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone man would die of a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts, happens also to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls

the sons of the Earth".

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If things get too hectic for you in these days of pressures, take a mini-vacation for yourself. Stop a moment to watch a seagull scything through the sky. Or 5 seconds to admire the sunset reflecting on the purple-bronze of a house finch. Take however long it may be for a rain drop to fall from a twig. Each pause constitutes a mini-vacation. Or lacking all these riches, simply pause and say "Music, Love, Family, Kisses, Laughter!" There, you feel better just reading them, don't you?

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Happy Holiday greetings from the Sanct.! The brightest and best of all things be yours in 1975!

COMING EVENTS

- January 11, 2:00PM Children's Nature Walk.
Wear water proof boots for going into the marsh.
- January 25, 2:00PM An introduction to Orienteering.
Bring compasses if you have them. Our first meeting will include an outdoor project, weather permitting.
- January 16, 8:00PM, Owl Walk Number 1. Dress warmly, and plan to stay outside for at least one hour. Hot drinks will be served after the walk. We guarantee you will see an owl.
- January 26, 1:30 PM, A brisk winter wildlife walk on Sachuest Point. Meet at the Sanctuary, bring binoculars, and dress warmly. There is a chance of seeing; King Eider, Purple Sandpipers, and Short-eared Owls.

Remember! When ever it snows the Sanctuary is open to cross country skiing.

The Sanctuary Woman's Auxiliary (for want of a better name) needs more volunteers. We will have a get acquainted coffee on Sat. January 11, at 10:00 AM. At this time you will be able to sign up for any of the activities you would like to help with. Bring a Friend.

Yes, Virginia, we have wildflower honey for sale from our hives. Come get some while it lasts!

Sign of the times-- in a restaurant: "T-bone .35¢, With meat \$c.35.

Come to our Masked Ball & Buffet
for the benefit of the
NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

Friday, January 31, 1975

The Castle Hill Hotel, Ocean Drive, Newport

Happy Hour ~ 7:00-8:00

A skit will be presented by the Sanctuary volunteers

A Jens Retlev Buffet ~ 8:00 to 9:00

Dance Music by John Moitoza ~ 9:00-12:00

Door Prize: Room for two at the hotel
(Babysitting provided)

Limited Sales

Donation: \$25 per couple
1/2 tax deductible
