

GARDEN TOUR



SUNDAY JUNE 27, 1999

12-5PM
DONATION \$10.00
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*WPMI comparable sold book statistics, Jan-Dec 1998

June 27, 1999

Welcome to the Ninth Annual Mt. Lebanon Garden Tour. We hope you are as excited as we are about visiting the six gardens on the tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us today and taking the time to share their labors of love. As you stroll through the varied gardens we hope that you not only renew your enthusiasm for gardening, but also glean ideas for your own landscapes. Please feel free to ask questions; the owners will be happy to share their knowledge.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so, too, have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. The result of this attention is the fabulous new library building. Funds raised by this year's Garden Tour will be used to build the library courtyard that will serve as an extension of the library. The outdoor courtyard, accessible by wheelchair, will provide an area for casual reading by patrons of all ages, and for programs such as book reviews, poetry readings, and storytimes.

Our fundraising efforts will be enhanced by the proceeds from the Silent Auction concluding at the library today. There are some wonderful items on display, so please visit the library and make a bid.

We thank the Garden Tour Committee and the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the Tour. We also thank the advertisers, contributors of auction items, and sponsors of the Garden Tour for their support. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Bob Quehl and Mary Lu Quehl

Mary Lu and Bob Quehl
Garden Tour Chairs

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THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES
12:00 NOON – 5:00 PM

Tickets and programs available at
Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard.

Gardens open for touring.

Silent Auction in Meeting Room A at
Mt. Lebanon Public Library.
Bid on dozens of wonderful items.

Bidding closes at 5:00 p.m.

Gardener's Getaway Drawing at 5:00 p.m.
Winners will be notified.

Refreshments available at
Mt. Lebanon Public Library.

Restrooms available at
Mt. Lebanon Public Library.



*Millennial Garden Tour
June 25, 2000
Be sure to attend.*

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DONORS TO THE SILENT AUCTION

The library gratefully acknowledges the support of the many donors who so generously contributed items to our Ninth Annual Garden Tour's Silent Auction. Those we received by our printing date are listed below. Many more items will be on display in Meeting Room A at the library from Thursday, June 24 – Sunday, June 27. Bidding closes at 5 p.m. Winners will be notified.

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Salute

The Garden Tour

The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization providing support services to the library. Any library patron may join the Friends. We need the enthusiastic response of the entire community to continue to give our library meaningful support. New people and new ideas keep organizations vital. Your time and input can make a difference—please join today!

Please issue me a 1999 Friends membership

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Address _____
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Amount enclosed: \$5 \$10 \$25 Other _____

I want to get involved! Please contact me about
volunteering time to the Friends.

Friends of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228

DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS

These directions are designed for the visitor to our town and do not include short cuts, but only main roads. There is a map included in the middle of this program for reference. The directions start at Route 19, which is also known as Washington Road and is the main artery through Mt. Lebanon. The Library is located close to the corner of Castle Shannon Boulevard and Washington Road and it is from that corner that directions to each garden begin.

Please note that you can start at any garden. The gardens are not in any specific order. You will find that the hosts at each garden have a Mt. Lebanon map and can direct you to the next garden. Enjoy the day!

468 THORNYCROFT AVENUE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go down Castle Shannon Boulevard. At stop sign (Y in road) continue going right on Castle Shannon Boulevard. At the light, make a right, which is still Castle Shannon Boulevard. Continue past the post office (on the right). Go through the next traffic light and make a left onto Crystal Drive (red brick road). Make a right onto Thornycroft Avenue. The house is the fifth on the right (red brick house with white pillars).

489 THORNYCROFT AVENUE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go down Castle Shannon Boulevard. At stop sign (Y in road) continue going right on Castle Shannon Boulevard. At the light, make a right, which is still Castle Shannon Boulevard. Continue past the post office (on the right). Go through the next traffic light and make a left onto Crystal Drive (red brick road). Make a right onto Thornycroft Avenue. The house is the second to the last house on the left (red brick house).

1409 TERRACE DRIVE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go south on Washington Road through approximately ten traffic lights. Just beyond the Mt. Lebanon Boulevard intersection, make a left onto Terrace Drive. The house is located on the left-hand side, across from Pueblo Drive (red brick house).

31 SPAULDING CIRCLE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go south on Washington Road. Make a right at sixth light, which is Woodhaven Drive. Make a left onto Spaulding Circle. The house is the second house on the right (red brick).

901 N. MEADOWCROFT AVENUE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go north on Washington Road (towards the business district). At seventh traffic light, make a left onto Bower Hill Road (across from St. Bernard's Church). Make a right onto N. Meadowcroft Avenue, which is the third street. Continue on through the stop sign and traffic light and stay on N. Meadowcroft Avenue. The house is on the left-hand side (red brick).

502 KENMONT AVENUE

From the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Boulevard, go north on Washington Road (towards the business district). At sixth traffic light, make a left onto Florence Place (across from the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery). The house (yellow brick) is on the corner of Florence Place and Kenmont Avenue.

The owners describe their gardens:

Garden of Sara & Jay Buss 489 Thornycroft Ave.



*A*lthough we have lived on Thornycroft Avenue since 1984, our lot really started to take shape in 1992 with the completion of a major house addition. At that time, the driveway retaining walls were replaced and the old stonework was reused in the creation of a waterfall and pond in the backyard. Since then, the pond has served as a year round home to a dozen koi and a few goldfish won at Howe School's Sunny Funny Fair.

The gardening season begins with spring bulbs, including crocuses, tulips and daffodils, followed by anemones, allium and fritillaria. The following months bring blooms on the weeping cherry tree, azalea bushes, rhododendron and other varieties. The summer landscape takes on a tropical look with trellised passion-flower and mandevilla, hibiscus, lantana and bougainvillea. The perennial gardens surrounding the pond are highlighted by lythrum, spiraea, fescue grasses and Japanese maple among many others. Water lilies and water iris decorate the pond.

With four children and a neighborhood of friends, we have strived to keep our garden family friendly. Our gardening philosophy has mellowed over the years. What was once viewed as another chore has become a hobby avidly pursued.

**Garden of
Jim & Cathy Traut
468 Thornycroft Ave.**



Our family moved into our home on Thornycroft in January of 1989. That summer we began to remove overgrown pine trees, out-of-control arborvitae and rotting tree stumps. What started out as a quick way to bring light into our home, turned out to be the beginning of our yearly landscape renovations. Some of our "this is the last one" projects have included a family room addition, patio, renovated porch, pond, tree plantings and an ever-growing number of gardens.

Our yard is a typical Mt. Lebanon yard: small, irregular and sloped. We also have a variety of growing conditions from full sun to dense shade with that wonderful clay soil everywhere. Our gardens sprang up in areas that were difficult to mow or where grass wouldn't grow. Armed with a shovel and wheelbarrow, we have created an ever-changing landscape. Change comes not only with the seasons, but also with our increasing knowledge of gardening. Learning by trial and error, we constantly are rearranging, moving, adding to and pulling out vegetation.

Perennial blooms throughout the summer include coreopsis, day lilies, delphinium, dahlias, bee balm, chrysanthemums, geranium, iris, loosestrife, daisy, rudbeckia and many others. Woodland areas include hostas, astilbes and dicentras. A variety of trees and shrubs include boxwood, euonymus, arborvitae, wygelia, dwarf cypress, Japanese maples, magnolia and heritage birch. Scattered throughout, we have the ever-popular impatiens for summer long color.

Will there ever be a last project? We certainly hope not!

**Garden of
Angela & Jim Lowden
31 Spaulding Circle**



Our home is a contemporary version of an English manor house on a pie-shaped lot. As an interior designer, I am particularly sensitive to the effects of color, texture and form, and I was challenged to design a garden to compliment the house. I felt a formal design focusing on conifers and topiaries would best accent the traditional style of the home.

As you explore the entrance garden, you will see some unusual clipped topiaries and standards, including the cultivar "Skylands" with golden needles. Nearby is a weeping pussy willow. Conifers closer to the house include hemlocks, pines, chaemecyperus, and a cryptomeria.

The traditional European influence is further enhanced by lush annual plantings in large Italian reproduction pots. Flower colors are chosen to compliment the brick color of our home.

The backyard is the domain of our son, but even his playhouse has some floral accents.

**Garden of
Anabeth & Chuck Dollins
1409 Terrace Dr.**



A narrow path winds through an English-style garden railway that extends over half of the Dollins' backyard. Chuck laid the track in 1995 with the help of a few neighbor children and has been running his G-scale trains on it ever since. Anabeth, the "Plant Manager" for the railway, has been seeking out dwarf conifers and small-leaved plants for landscaping. Anabeth and Chuck have hand-built several structures — buildings, a gazebo, a pavilion, walls, and viaducts. There isn't a town, as in some layouts. Rather, small vignettes are scattered among the plants. When it isn't raining, a silk-covered hot-air balloon hovers over the layout.

In addition to the small conifers, there are Korean boxwoods, which have been trimmed to look like trees. Several varieties of low-growing thyme, small-leaved sedum, and Irish moss represent shrubbery and lawns. Among the flowering annuals and perennials are dwarf varieties of daylily, daffodil, iris, chrysanthemum, and hosta.

Note: This yard is NOT wheelchair accessible

**Garden of
Shirley & Norman Petrelli
502 Kenmont Ave.**



I have been gardening for many years at my home, carrying on the tradition that my father-in-law, Anthony Petrelli, started. Many of the yew and boxwood shrubs and pear trees were planted by him more than fifty years ago. The stone walls and stone-faced garage were done by Petrelli & Sons in the 1950s.

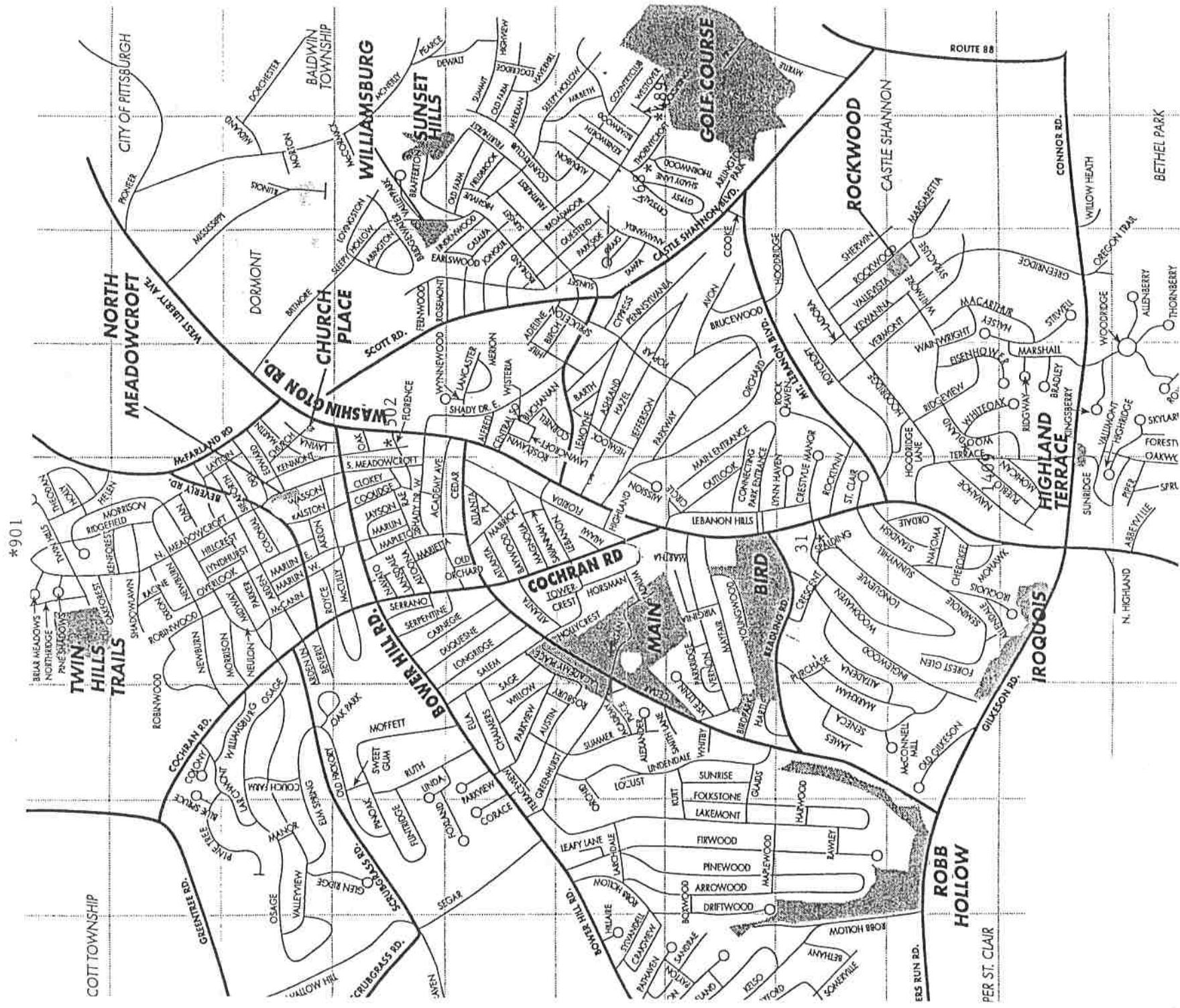
In the front yard, which faces east, we have a woodland type garden with yews and junipers as a backdrop, a Japanese red lace maple, interplanted with hostas, ferns, variegated liriope, and daphne "Carol Mackie" on one side of the front walk. On the south side of the house is my vegetable garden, in a three-foot strip along the house. I grow beans, some herbs, lettuce, onions and tomatoes. There is a mimosa tree given to me as a small cutting from my son that is doing quite well and bloomed for the first time last summer. We also plant vegetables in a strip of ground raised by a stone wall around the garage. I use every bit of space that I can; we call it "square inch gardening."

My patio is small, but it contains all of my flowering plants. We have wine barrels that my father-in-law made wine in years ago, cut in half, that I use for large groupings of plants. There are also some large plants in containers, such as angel's trumpet, hibiscus and fig trees, which bear figs in the summer. These I winter over in the house. I collect birdhouses and odd old items and place them around the plantings. On the garage wall I have two pyracantha shrubs trained on wood lattice to cover cement blocks.

My pond is my latest project. We used a rubber liner and put rocks around it. To keep a natural look, I plant "hens and chicks" in depressions in the stones. Many of the stones were gathered by my grandson Nicholas and I during camping trips. I have just started with water plants and have a miniature pink water lily and water iris.

At the rear of the property I have a strip of day lilies, shasta daisies, purple coneflower, monarda, rudbeckia and Queen Anne's lace. My compost pile is contained in this area as well.

My yard and garden are small and there is a large diversity of plants, but I think it works well and is interesting to see. I hope people will see that you can enjoy gardening in small places.



Garden of
Arlene & Fred Crissman
901 N. Meadowcroft Ave.



Twenty years ago, one's first impression of our house was that it was too harsh, too tall for the lot, skinny, unremarkable and uninviting. Looking at it, I had realized the landscaping was all straight lines and right angles. Everything led the eye up and emphasized the negatives. However, landscaping could be changed, and therefore, the appearance could also change.

Ours is a corner lot and (just about) our entire yard is on view to the public. We can't think of the front, side and back areas separately. The vegetable gardens must visually connect to the play area, which must lead the eye to the front ornamentals. Connecting the three areas lent a strong horizontal line, which helps soften the strong vertical lines of the house. Window boxes also helped correct the "too tall" look.

The front bed is a mix of annuals and perennials, while the border is a mix of hosta, day lilies and shrubs. Some of the annuals, such as the zinnias and snapdragons, were started during the winter months with seed saved from last summer. The raised bed vegetable garden includes corn, romaine lettuce, broccoli and raddichio. We experiment and try a new vegetable each year.



*"Let us help you find
a garden of your own!"*



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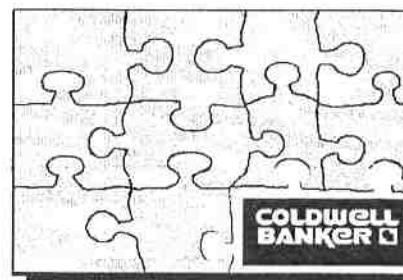
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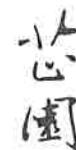
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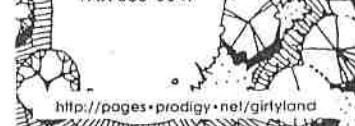
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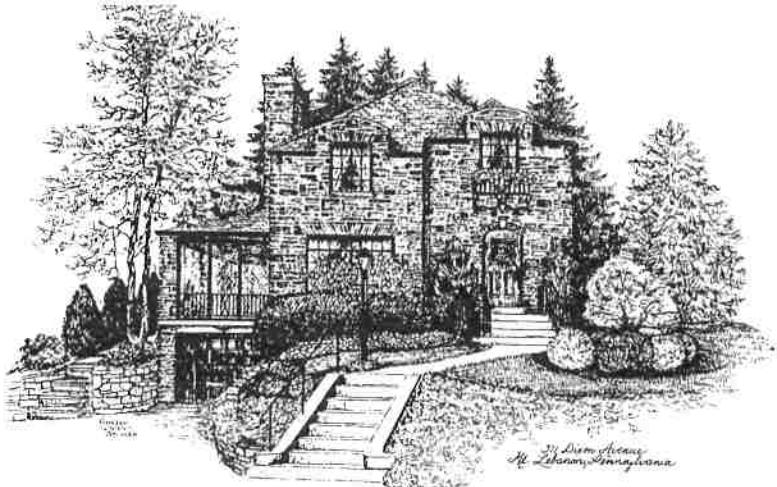
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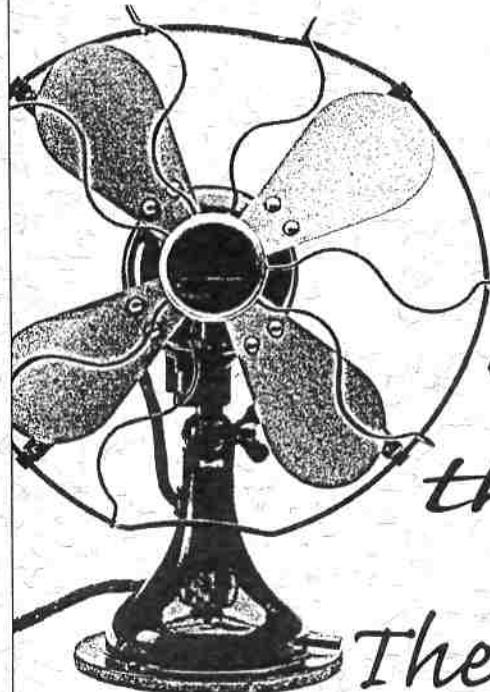
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