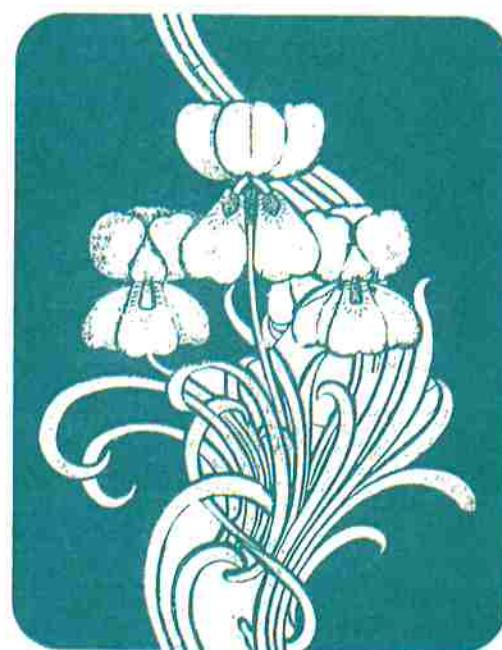


GARDEN TOUR



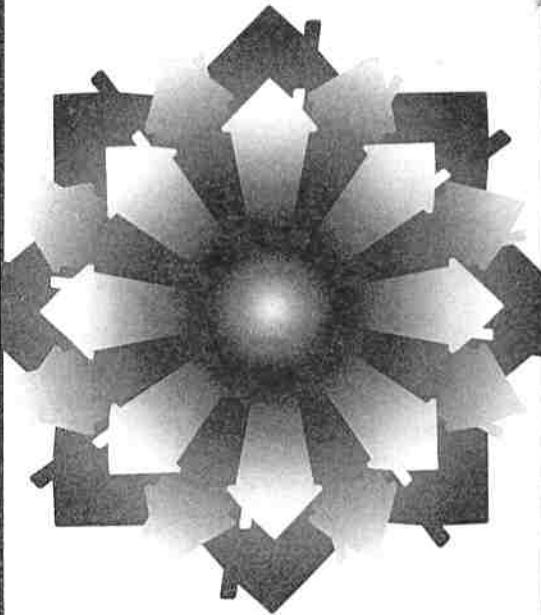
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Mt. Lebanon Public Library

July 13, 2008

Dear Library Friends and Tour Goers,

Welcome to the 18th Annual Mt. Lebanon Library Garden Tour. The Tour Committee has worked since last summer to make this day happen and we are most grateful for your participation. We are deeply indebted to the gardeners who so graciously offered their garden creations to you today. These gardens are truly works of art that the community, as well as the owners, can be proud of. We hope that your experience today provides you visual pleasure and incentive to incorporate into your own gardening efforts. Most of the gardeners will be somewhere in their gardens and will be happy to answer any of your questions. There will be Penn State Master Gardeners at the Library and at some of the gardens to assist you. Please feel free to ask questions; the gardeners are always happy to share their hard earned knowledge.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and many talents, especially the Garden Tour committee, the hosts and hostesses at each garden, the Master Gardeners and garden consultants. Our souvenir tour book advertisers are vital to the success of the tour. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

The residents of Mt. Lebanon have nurtured their library in many ways. For eighteen years this tour has been one of those efforts. Funds raised by past Garden Tours have been used to expand and renovate the library building, improve indoor lighting, create the outdoor courtyard, provide furniture for the children's library and main magazine area, purchase an intercom system, acquire wireless Internet access, and do so much more. The library has been able to improve and offer services above and beyond the traditional library because of the generous support of fund raising efforts like the Garden Tour. Our many donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors, as well as all who purchase tickets for the tour, have made all this happen, and we are confident that your support will continue way into the future.

We thank you all.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Cil and David McKibben, Garden Tour Chairs
Mt. Lebanon Public Library

Cynthia K. Richey, Director
Mt. Lebanon Public Library

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"He that plants trees loves others
besides himself."

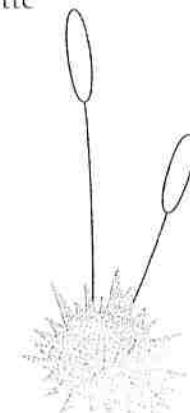
~Thomas Fuller

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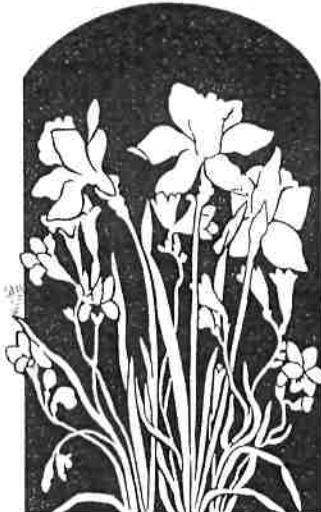
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"Show me your garden and
I shall tell you what you are."

~Alfred Austin

Friends of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library 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!

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*G*arden of
Linda & Tom Binek
1715 Holly Lane

When we purchased our house in 1992, I imagined the beautiful layout of the gardens. Originally, our yard was landscaped with various shrubs and trees. I added the perennial gardens along the walkway, porch, and borders of our property. Arborvitae and a gated arbor were added to the patio for privacy and decoration. Our patio has a relaxing setting with a tiered fountain with many planters of annuals surrounded by ferns, a red leafed patio peach tree, and orange tiger lilies. The patio exits into the backyard through a sun faced arbor into a quiet setting with a bench surrounded by rose of Sharon shrubs. Also, there are pussy willow trees, white and purple lilac trees, dogwood trees, a butterfly bush, a snowball bush, and a flowering crabapple tree. Marigolds and cosmos, and planters of other annuals enclose the two vegetable gardens. Gazing balls, birdbaths, statues, and several rose bushes are seen throughout the yard. There are numerous hand painted birdhouses throughout the space that nest wrens, chickadees, and sparrows. There is a butterfly bush and a trumpet vine at the entrance of the porch that attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Orange poppies, irises, pink rose bushes, daffodils, tulips, day lilies, Asian lilies, lamb ears, dahlias, black-eyed Susans, daisies, and hibiscus are planted throughout the corner garden of our home. A peach tree, rose bushes, hosta, and pink peonies are flowering around the border of the patio. We have named our pink peonies Betty, after my mother, and Stella, after Tom's mother, who were their original growers starting them over fifty years ago. Around the house are hydrangeas, rose bushes, irises, day lilies, bleeding hearts, holly trees, yuccas, poppies, angel trumpets, clematises, and many annuals that bloom throughout the summer season.



*G*arden of
Donna & Jim Carney
845 Northridge Drive

Our garden is a tribute to my wife's imagination and her love of growing things. Both the layout and composition of the garden reflect her discerning judgment without benefit of professional or spousal advice. In one sense, the garden is Donna. She has always enjoyed this physical work of gardening as well as the imaginative aspect of design. She, more than anyone, appreciates the work of art that she has created.

Our garden is planned to take maximum advantage of a very small plot by filling it with an orderly progression of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. It tends to the 18th century English style of gardens with the emphasis on order and balance. A key feature is the terrace approach, which is created by a beautiful stone wall that separates the upper garden from the lower. As Alexander Pope has written, it is a "mighty maze but not without a plan." It is a human creation with little assist from Mother Earth.

Two of the major beneficiaries of our garden are our miniature schnauzers, Chloe and Mr. Murphy (a ragamuffin Irishman whom we rescued from a puppy mill). They love to tear through the yard, jumping plants and walls, chasing each other, and hunting for whatever wild animals are foolish enough to intrude on a human preserve. Shakespeare must have had them in mind when he wrote, "Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war." Although they do not appreciate the finer points of gardening and create a certain amount of disorder scattering mulch and breaking plants, their lives would be the emptier without our garden.

Life has fewer pleasures than to sit outside at the end of a long day, sipping a can of beer or a glass of wine, and surveying the results of one's own physical labor. One can do worse than following Horace's advice "to tend one's garden."



Garden of
Asbury Heights
700 Bower Hill Road
(*This is a drive-through tour.*)

Welcome to the Gardens at Asbury Heights!

When you make the turn into 700 Bower Hill Road you are whisked into a secluded setting of neatly trimmed lawns, shrubs and tall grasses. Scattered throughout our 26-acre campus are many lovely garden areas. Most of the flower garden areas are concentrated along the main entry circle. The first area within the circle, on your right, is the "Garden of Love." This mostly perennial garden is relatively new and was established as a living tribute to loved ones both past and present. Fiery blanket flowers, black-eyed Susan, lavender, butterfly bush and many other colorful long-lasting flower varieties are included.

The central gazebo area on your left was bright with early spring tulips and now blooms with lively annuals. The cooling shade trees provide an escape from the summer sun and a quiet oasis where residents and guests can sit, relax and enjoy the scenery. Continuing around the circle you will be greeted at the main entrance with assorted annuals and shrubs.

As you near the end of the circle, bear left as if to go around again, then steer right towards the rear of the campus. Follow the sign that says "Asbury Villas." Pass behind all the buildings and as the road curves left you'll see building #5 with its colorful flowery walkway. Continue down the hill to see a few of our patio homes on your left and Asbury Place on your right. You will then arrive at the lower exit on Bower Hill Road.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of Asbury Heights. Founded one century ago in Dravosburg, PA, Asbury moved to its present location in 1926. This year marks our first time on the Mt Lebanon Garden Tour. Thank you for coming! We hope you enjoyed our gardens.



Garden of
Tammy & William Rectenwald
550 Austin Avenue

When we purchased our home in the 80's, the landscaping was sparse, very 1950's. The house was framed with thick, bushy yews and the backyard and driveway lined with pines. Almost half of the backyard was woods. We decided to reclaim that part by arduous clearing of brush and saplings. That area was a challenge since it is vast. We contracted with a landscaper for arrangement and product of the far garden under the oak tree. We did all hardscape with the exception of the wall surrounding the patio. The rest of the gardens were designed "in house," with an area in the front yard to sit and enjoy the water feature and some quiet. Now, willows line the driveway and wisteria frames the garage. We chose plants with variegation for color in the front to complement the house.

Evergreens buffer the patio for privacy and boxwoods for fencing, with plants to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Their proximity to the patio allows enjoyment of the wildlife the garden brings. The small pond has become a bath for the birds. It's fun watching them line up and wait their turn to bathe.

It is not unusual to keep moving plants until we feel they are in their proper place and aesthetically pleasing. Our gardens are also very young due to construction a few years ago, just a mere five years old. Our latest and the youngest addition is a yoga/meditation garden created this spring. We used bamboo fencing for privacy and chose plants for their aromas. The seat in the wall allows for meditation or just a private place to sit and enjoy nature.

We hope you enjoy the gardens as much as we do.



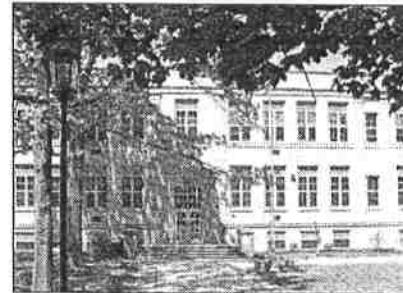
Garden of Kim & Tom Beggs 222 Main Entrance Drive

Our yard is a continuing effort to bring beauty and nature to our little piece of Mt. Lebanon. We purchased this house from Kim's parents in 2004 and have endeavored to make the house and the grounds our own while maintaining the design and intent that her parents lovingly put into the property for over 30 years.

In the front of the house, the landscaping was renewed with a combination of plants (Japanese maple, dogwood, azaleas, rhodies, etc.) so that structure and color are abundant in the warmth, but also present in the winter. Daffodils bloom in the spring, along with a few tulips hoping to survive the hunger of our local herd of deer! We have incorporated a few perennials and annuals to dot this area, although they are compact in size they bring attractive color and texture.

As you walk to the backyard, a slender garden lines the way. A pencil holly is the focal point of this mounded plot, and a combination of perennials and annuals enlivens the transition to the backyard.

Upon entering the backyard, you are in a small courtyard that is just outside our kitchen. This full afternoon sun area is usually colorful based on a variety of perennials, including astilbe, shasta daisies, phlox, bee balm, rudbeckia, among many others. Baskets and containers of annuals provide constant color. The enclosed area presents different sections for individual plantings and groupings. The removal of a large maple last year has provided additional sun resulting in new array of plants and experiments in design. The backyard offers a nice view from our comfortable back porch toward the perennial garden above our driveway. The plants here are hopefully timed to bloom throughout our warm seasons. Daylilies, hosta, spreading phlox, Russian sage, yarrow, cannas, and bee balm are just some inhabitants of this area.



Garden of Markham School Crescent Ave./Beadling Rd.

Markham Elementary is home to a Native Habitat Garden, a Butterfly Garden, a Rain Garden and smaller themed areas. The gardens began when the class of 2011 planted a serviceberry for the ASSET science unit in 1998. Unfortunately, the original gardens were removed, a casualty of the school renovation, and new gardens were begun in 2005.

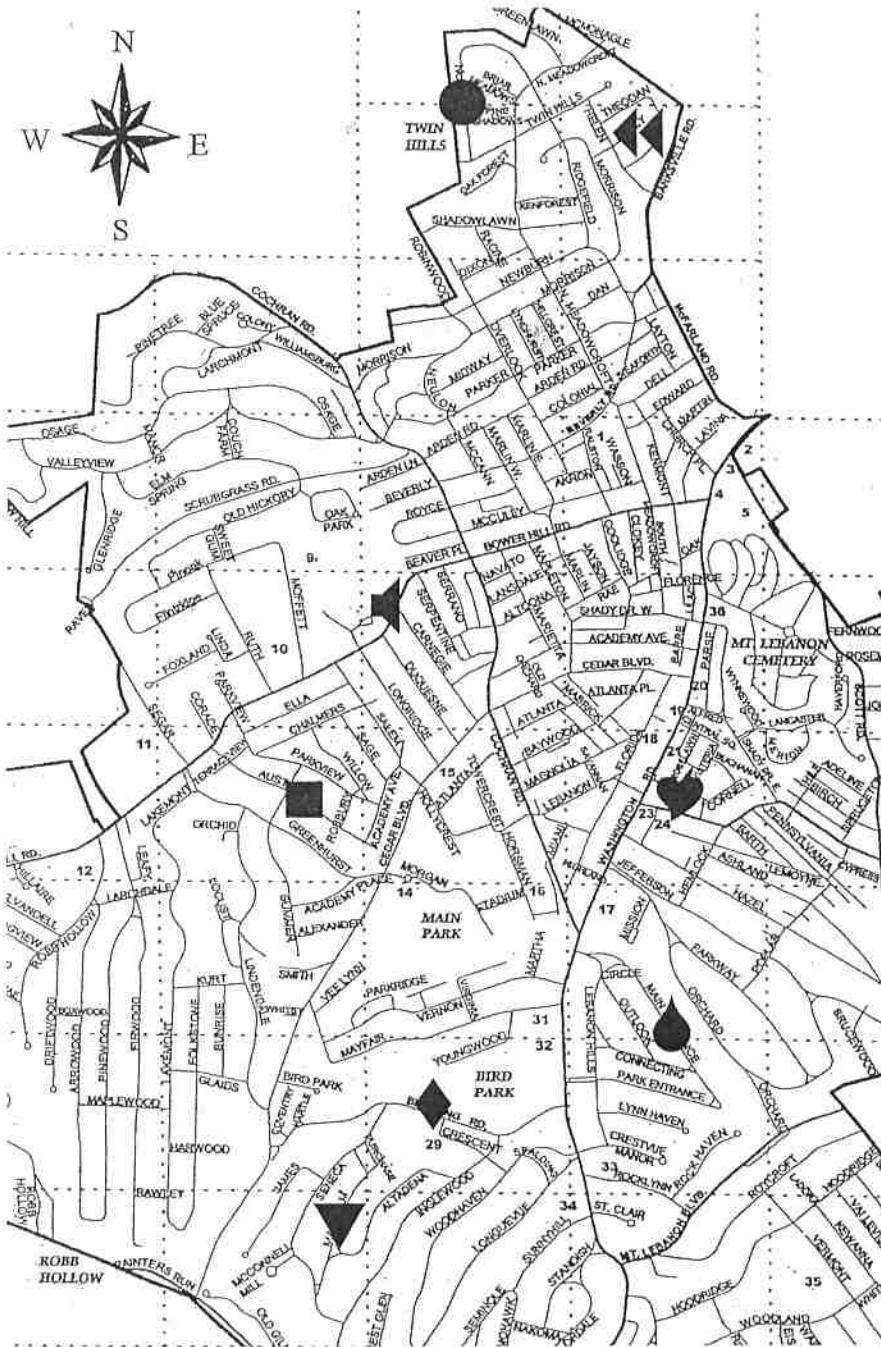
Although the gardens function as one unit, there are distinct differences amongst them. The Butterfly Garden is the contained area to the right of the path, as you head to the playground. The plants contained in this garden are designed to attract and sustain butterflies. Whole life cycle plants reside here, as well as plants providing food for larvae and adult butterflies.

The largest area bordering the school is the Native Habitat Garden. It begins where the garden concrete path intersects the original path around the school. This area is significant from a garden perspective, as it is planted with native trees, shrubs, and perennials. The Native Garden has also been designated a Habitat Garden as it provides food, shelter, and water for animals.

Completing our landscaping is our playground which opened in the fall of 2007. Many large trees have been planted in the playground and surrounding areas to provide shade, beauty, and increase the diversity of tree material. The intertwining of trees and landscaping with the playground equipment is also designed to spark children's imagination and stimulate creative play.

The garden adjacent to the playground is our Rain Garden. It is designed to utilize and control the run off from the hillside as you approach the back entrance of the school. This is an ecological and beautiful approach to a very difficult, though common, problem. The entire playground can be viewed from this area, providing a comfortable spot for teacher supervision.

For more information about the gardens, please visit our website at: www.mtlsd.org, to District Links, to Markham Gardens.



“A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.”
~ Chinese proverb

DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2008

The following directions start from the Library ♥ at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd. (just off Washington Road) and guide you to the first garden you choose. There is no particular order that is recommended. The Garden Hosts/Hostesses will have a map at each garden if you need assistance or more details to help you find your next destination.

◀ 1715 Holly Lane:

From the Library, go right on Washington Road. Go approximately 0.9 miles and turn left on McFarland Road. Turn left onto Helen Drive across from the Dormont Pool. Turn left onto Holly Lane. The garden will be at the first house on your right.

● 845 Northridge Drive:

From the Library, go right on Washington Road. Go approximately 0.9 miles and turn left on McFarland Road. Turn left onto Helen Drive across from the Dormont Pool. Turn left onto Twin Hills Drive. Turn right onto Northridge Drive.

◀ Asbury Heights – 700 Bower Hill Road:

From the Library, go right on Washington Road. Turn left onto Bower Hill Road. Asbury Heights will be at the second stoplight on your right.

■ 550 Austin Avenue:

From the Library, go right on Washington Road. Turn left onto Bower Hill Road. After proceeding through 4 stoplights, turn left onto Austin Ave.

● 222 Main Entrance Drive:

From the Library, go left on Washington Road. Turn left onto Main Entrance Drive immediately after Cochran Road intersection. Bear left at the island.

◆ Markham Elementary School – Crescent Ave./Beadling Road:

From the Library, go left on Washington Road. Go approximately 0.7 miles and turn right onto Beadling Road. The school will be on your left at the second intersection. Park in the parking lot adjacent to the school.

▼ 89 Markham Drive:

From the Library, go left on Washington Road. Go approximately 0.7 miles and turn right onto Beadling Road. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Seneca Drive. Turn left onto Purchase Place. Turn right onto Markham Drive.



Garden of Judy & Jack Tolley 89 Markham Drive

When we bought our house in 1968, one of the things we liked best about it was the 40 ft. silver maple in the backyard. With two small children, we envisioned a shady place for a swing set and sandbox. But as years passed, the now 60 footer became a nuisance, especially the invasive roots. In January of 2002, we had the tree removed, and for the first time in 35 years, we had "plant sustaining" SUN in our backyard; we could actually grow something other than hosta and impatiens.

We immediately went overboard and planted five garden plots in our tiny backyard. We quickly learned our mistake; we now have three brick lined gardens, as well as a border garden in the back. A few years before the tree came out we decided to satisfy our craving for a garden by adding a plot in the front yard, which has enhanced the "curb appeal" of our home. As is certainly common in this area, we've battled with poor drainage, due to the clay base. Thanks to the township's composted leaves, we've been amending the soil each year and little by little there has been improvement.

We have a wide variety of perennials, woody shrubs and some colorful annuals. Hydrangea is one of our favorites and of the 9 varieties we have, we're especially fond of the oak leaf and climbing hydrangea.

We've enjoyed collecting chachka over the years and use our collection to add both function and interest to the garden. Elements such as wrought iron flower stakes and trellises. Lots of old "found objects" such as gates, stools, benches and fence pieces can be found throughout the garden....plus a variety of birdbaths and bird feeders have made our backyard a haven for goldfinches, hummingbirds and grandchildren!

Replacement

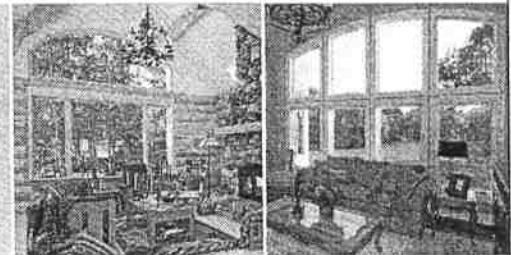
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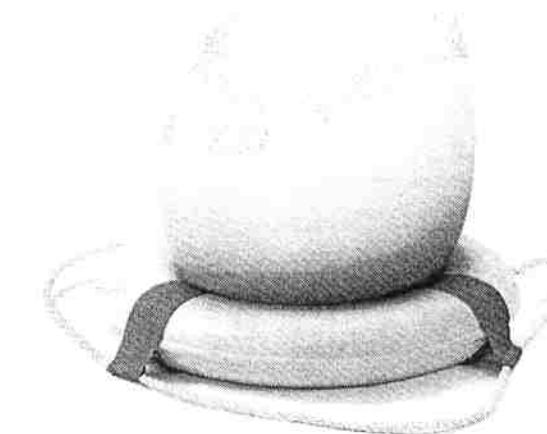
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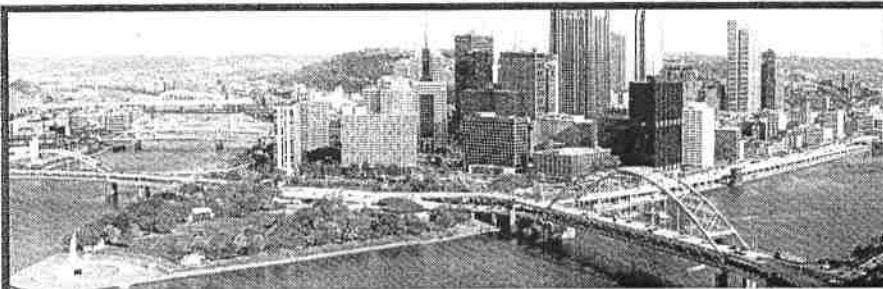


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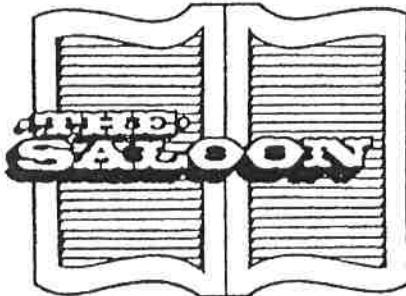


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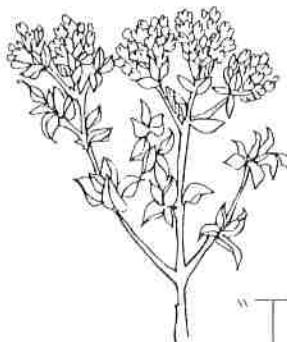
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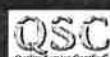
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