

FIGS OF SUBTROPICS GROW IN CHICAGO

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FEW CHICAGOANS realize that figs—one of the best-known of the subtropical fruits—can be grown in the Windy City, hardly famed for its clement weather. They not only can be but indeed they are grown by those who feel that a bland reward is sufficient payment for the performance of a not-too-easy task. These people and their friends enjoy the often prolific crop.

Despite this, it is unlikely that Chicago will ever become a fig-growing center. The



GROWS FIGS IN CHICAGO

Charles Cardella lowering one of his subtropical fruit trees into a trench in his garden at 6319 West Patterson Avenue. Covered with old rugs and soil, the tree is protected from winter cold. In spring it is dug up and replanted.

difficulty lies in the fact that the fig tree must be given adequate protection from cold during the winter. There are two general ways in which this may be accomplished: the first is to grow the tree in a large pot that can be moved indoors into a cool place with the



PAYS OFF IN SUMMER

A fruiting branch of one of the dark-skinned varieties of the common type of fig grown in Chicago by Mr. Cardella.

beginning of cold weather; the second involves growing the tree in a sheltered position and giving it various sorts of winter protection.

The second is the more challenging one

and the one used by a local fig-grower whose garden I visited. He had tried for many years to grow figs but always lost them by freezing during the winter. Finally the idea—not a new one—occurred to him to try burying the entire tree in November, after its leaves had been shed, and digging it up again the following spring! This task is accomplished by undercutting and freeing the roots on one side, digging a trench a foot or two deep running out from the base of the trunk, and gently bending the tree over into the trench. The branches are wrapped with cloth, covered with old rugs and the like, and then heaped over with soil. One of the trees protected by this method developed a trunk over five inches in diameter and finally became too big to handle during the burying period.

The amount of cold that a dormant fig tree will withstand is determined by a number of factors, including variety, degree of dormancy, and condition of the plant. For example, certain fig trees in Texas were uninjured by a low of 11°F. Other varieties, in California, showed fruit-bud injury after a drop to 15°–18°F. At 10°–12°F some healthy mature plants were but slightly injured, whereas injury was severe to old and young bearing trees. In contrast, some varieties can withstand temperatures as low as 3°F without damage.

The growing of figs in the northern states has been known for many years. In New York, Philadelphia, and other cities many fig trees are said to grow out-of-doors, receiving winter protection of some sort. This practice is just another illustration of man's apparently insatiable desire to grow plants in areas not ideally suited to their growth. Other examples are to be seen in greenhouses and in the vast smudge-pot and citrus industry of Florida.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of principal gifts received during the past month:

Department of Anthropology:

From: Cornelia Conger, Chicago—3 artifacts from Northern Plains Indians, Idaho

Department of Botany:

From: American Spice Trade Association, New York—16 photographic prints of spice plants; W. W. Hodge, Kennett Square, Pa.—photograph (*Myristica fragrans* fruits)

Department of Geology:

From: Rosiclare Lead & Fluorspar Mining Co., Rosiclare, Ill.—a specimen of fluorite; Miss Lillian Ross, Chicago—holotype of insect, Illinois

Department of Zoology:

From: Ismael Ceballos Bendezu, Cuzco, Peru—15 small rodents; H. R. Bullis, Pascagoula, Miss.—marine shell, Gulf of Mexico; Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—86 frogs, 191 lizards, 9 snakes; William E. Old, Jr., Norfolk, Va.—collection of land snails; Fraser Walsh, Formosa—birdskin

FIFTH 'MUSEUM JOURNEY' STUDIES BIBLE PLANTS

Plants of the Bible is the subject of the fifth Museum 'Travelers' Journey for boys and girls now in progress at the Museum. Presented by the Raymond Foundation, the journey is available through April to youngsters who wish to become Museum Travelers—which means that they must successfully complete four "journeys" after which they will receive special awards from Dr. Clifford C. Gregg, Director.

During their "travels" the youngsters, armed with instructions and questions concerning the exhibits, are transported to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the mountains of Lebanon, the Nile River, and to Jerusalem. In the botany halls they learn of some of the food plants and other plants that were of great importance to the people of the Holy Land in biblical times.

A colorful Bible plant exhibit in Stanley Field hall introduces the journey to its young travelers and prepares them for their further travels in the museum. A journey to toys of ancient and modern times was offered in December and January.

NEW MEMBERS

(February 14 to March 14)

Associate Members

Miss Grace Bittrich, Robert C. Cross, Paul C. Fulton, David Bruce Glade, Bernhart Haugen, Henry Kenny, F. Chaloner McNair

Sustaining Member

R. S. Solinsky

Annual Members

• Roy T. Anderson, Dr. Hugo C. Baum, Marshall L. Billings, Frank L. Bixby, E. Henry Blume, Hymen H. Bregar, Mrs. Robert F. Carr, Hayden F. Conway, George J. Cooper, James H. Cunningham, Herbert Daniels, Miss Phyllis Dockendorf, Mrs. Vivian Dockendorf, Robert J. Doucette, J. O. Epeneter, Francis A. Even, Miss Judith Fagan, Mitchel E. Farris, Edward J. Fey, Philip A. Fleischman, Dr. Aristotle T. Flessor, G. K. Franklin, Alfred E. Gallo, Arthur John Geng, Mrs. William Glassenberg, A. L. Goddard, Francis H. Gurney, Carl Gustafson, Edward W. Hill, A. C. Hoffman, L. C. Holloman, Jr., Richard H. Jay, Harry F. Keator, Jr., Russell W. Keegan, John Laidlaw, Willard C. Lighter, Donald E. Longwill, M. G. Luken, Jr., Richard W. Massey, W. R. Maxwell, Dr. William L. Maxwell, David N. McCarl, Samuel E. McTier, Dr. W. Harrison Mehn, R. H. Olson, Glenn R. Ostrander, Mrs. Fentress Ott, W. H. Pfarrer, Mrs. Mary S. Pfiffner, Robert E. Pflaumer, Mrs. R. Joseph Rich, A. W. Richart, Herbert J. Richmond, William E. Roberts, John M. Rolfe, Joseph K. Salomon, B. J. Schlicht, John G. Sevcik, William B. Smeeth, Herbert S. Sorock, Adolph F. Spiehler, Cheston F. Stafford, Richard W. Stafford, Mrs. F. H. Steinmann, Donald R. Stewart, John Svatik, Charles B. Tansley, Charles D. Turgrimson, Master David Vasalle, Pasquale Venetucci, Percy H. Waller, William F. Wrightson



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