



World of Words

by JOAN JENSEN
Lansing Librarian

When I first began thinking about a new library five years ago I never dreamed how involved a project it would be. Did I read somewhere that the gestation period for a baby elephant was five years? Now I know how a mother elephant feels. It is, however, a fascinating project. When we see a building we either admire it or we don't but we seldom ever think of the hours that are required for the planning of a building. I talked to the architect Saturday and he has some exciting ideas. I will tell you more about them as they are formulated.

One of the things he told me was that a new process has been discovered when some one observed that a very old metal bridge had rusted outwardly instead of inwardly. The composition of that metal was analysed and a whole new treatment of aluminum evolved. When anyone at a party asks me if I've read any good books lately I tell them, "yes, about oxidation."

Do you like those books about people who get away from it all and buy an island? These women are so brave. They go off and live in the center of a large body of water with only a chipmunk or two for company. They have such wonderful times collecting berries and listening to the silence. They never seem to have the urge to call their friends, they never are tempted to go to sidewalk days and buy a lot of things they really could do without. Just a few pounds of flour and some matches are all they need. They all seem to do their own lard rendering and soap making. They do not seem to worry about money always have plenty of logs for those handhewn stone fireplaces. Most of them seem to drink martini's so they must go to the mainland from time to time unless juniper berries grow on the island too.

These stories are about as believable as those gothic novels where the beautiful heroine hears strange sounds coming from the woods in the middle of the night, the same woods where the ghost has appeared, and throws her long cloak over her night gown and runs out to investigate. If I heard strange sounds in the middle of the night you couldn't pay me to go out and investigate, not even if you promised me an island and all the lard I could render:

We have a new book on terrariums. A terrarium is an "environment" in which plants grow and thrive in a glass container. The possibilities are limitless, you can have one perfect rose in a bell jar, a tropical jungle in a fish tank, a miniature woodland in a brandy snifter, or a dessert in an antique jar. This lovely and authoritative book is just loaded suggestions. Why don't you make one for yourself? The book is called the Terrarium Book and it is by Charles M. Evans with Roberta Lee Pliner.

A word about library cards. When you take out a book always keep your card in the pocket of the book. If you don't you may have to write a note to the library like this one. . . . "Christine's library cards got into the Gerbils cage and was chewed up. Please, could she have a new one?" Moral: Keep your card away from gerbils, and come to the library.

1973