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GEDDY GARDEN NEWS

*"Let there be adjoining the house a convenient garden,
it being the purest of human pleasures,
and a great refreshment to the spirit of man,
without which buildings are but gross Handy-works..."*

Stephen Primatt

I am always somewhat saddened when in mid-August we declare summer to be ended. Our summer employees head back to their schools and we will greatly miss those young people who breathe life and fun in our old Geddy site. So with much sorrow we say farewell to Ben Bristow, Lane Chappel, John Schulte, and Sara Finklestein. I owe special thanks to Sara for filling in for me as I vacationed in New England. She watered and weeded while I was gone. Before Sara left she experimented with a receipt from an 18th-century cookbook. Using carrots from the Geddy garden, she prepared carrot pudding over an open fire in the Geddy back yard. The results were so good that she picked an armful of carrots to take back with her, along with the receipt, as she departed for college.

On my vacation I had an opportunity to visit the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. The museum allowed me to journey back to the 16th century in a recreated Pequot village. It is a realistic exhibit that represents all aspects of Pequot life. I especially liked the scene of the maize field which included Indian figures. In that scene the Indians were on a loft as human scarecrows protecting their crops. This practice is one that I frequently interpret when I am questioned about my scarecrow in the Geddy garden. I also enjoyed taking the plant and garden tour of the Farmstead. On the tour a Native-American guide taught the traditional native gardening practices and the uses of indigenous plants. I was very impressed with the museum and I recommend it to all.

As a post script to my last month's newsletter, I just finished reading an article in the past week's issue of *Time* magazine. Last month I wrote about the history of labyrinths and mazes. The *Time* article emphasizes the role the labyrinth plays in our lives today in the U.S. It seems the maze has proven to be conducive to mental and emotional good health. They are being built throughout the country because they are instrumental in calming our frazzled nerves. People are walking in them for relaxation and meditation and prayer. They are being included on some campuses to help reduce stress among the school children and on college campuses students walk the maze when preparing for tests and exams. They believe it helps them to concentrate and focus on their studies. The number of mazes in our country has risen to 1,500 and 400 of those were created in the past year. There is even an American Maze Company. They are producing mazes on farm lands. I guess you could call that kind of maze a maize maze. The object of those mazes is to

help out the farmer with his income. Those mazes are not only for fun but for profit as well. I have heard there is one here in Tidewater. I think I can safely say we are living in the time of the "Maze Craze."

Janet Guthrie

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