

# Elephant power comes to the farm

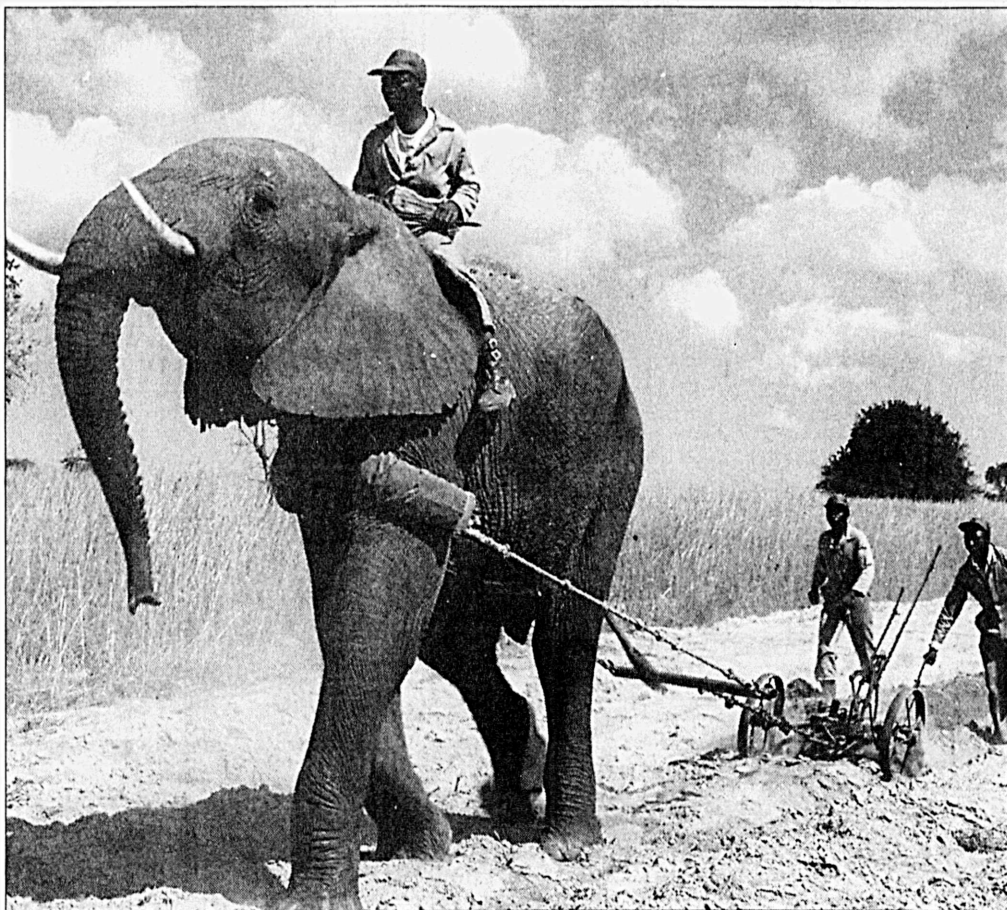
by ANGUS SHAW

WEDZA, Zimbabwe (AP) — It's the best all-terrain vehicle around, and there's no need for spare parts. But it does consume 150 kilograms of fodder a day.

An elephant hauling a plow makes short work of the hardest earth, scouring deep furrows and effortlessly ripping out rocks and roots to make way for vital food crops.

And tamed elephant power is one way of saving animals that otherwise would have to be shot, said Peter Musavaya, chief ranger at the Imire private wildlife ranch in the corn-producing district of Wedza, 90 kilometres east of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital.

"In many farming areas the elephant is a vermin. He de-



Nyasha, a 14-year-old elephant, pulls a plow in the corn-producing district of Zimbabwe. Elephant power is one way of saving animals that otherwise would have to be shot.

stroys crops and frightens villagers," Musavaya said. "The only answer is to utilize him or kill him."

For decades it was believed African elephants — unlike their smaller Asian cousins — couldn't be tamed. But experiments in Zimbabwe, neighboring Botswana and South Africa are quickly changing that view.

The pioneering work appears to have begun at Imire three years ago.

It began after six young three-tonne elephants were trained to carry armed rangers on anti-poaching patrols around the rugged 4,650-hectare ranch and wildlife preserve, home to a dozen endangered black rhinoceros and other rare animals.

The patrols are conducted in the early morning and evening around a perimeter inaccessible to

four-wheel-drive vehicles. Being atop an elephant gives the rangers an advantage of at least three metres in height to peer deep into the bush for poachers.

At least one gang of poachers armed with automatic rifles fled at the sight of an elephant patrol. "I think they were frightened out of their wits," said Musavaya.

With the help of an animal psychologist from Britain who spent three months at Imire, the elephants were eased into harnesses to draw plows and trailers. "They were used to having weight on them . . . we had absolutely no problem with the harnessing at all," Musavaya said.

It took only a few weeks to win over the young elephants through a reward system, using food and gentle coaxing from their human handlers.

## Photographer finds her inspiration in the garden

by KATHY VEY  
Ottawa Citizen

ELGIN, Ont. (CP) — For most people, working in the garden means a little weeding and a little mowing. For Turid Forsyth, it means something else entirely.

"My garden is my work," says Forsyth, a photographer and artist who draws rich inspiration from her 53 hectares in the woods outside the hamlet of Chaffey's Locks, about 40 kilometres northeast of Kingston. She shoots what she grows. Her garden serves as her studio, laboratory and classroom.

"Never do I work inside. Always I use natural light. I often wander in my garden at all hours of the day trying to find the best spot to take a photograph.

"When the light is right in the early morning or late evening, I don't have much time, but I know exactly how I can place an object to look its best, whether it's a cabbage or a bouquet of wildflowers."

In all likelihood, Forsyth's sumptuous images have helped seduce Canadians into their current passionate fling with gardening. Through her lens, herbs and vegetables are composed as beautifully as any florist's arrangement. Her flowering plants look good enough to eat.

Her photos have illustrated an armload of books, including The Harrow-Smith Salad Garden and The Harrow-Smith Annual Garden, which she co-authored. They also appear in numerous calendars.

Magazine readers, too, may recognize her signature style, a glorious tumult of color with blossoms of all varieties tumbling out of lush green foliage.

Forsyth warns visitors not to expect a manicured city garden. With some pride, she describes it as "a garden in the woods."

Nature has certainly had a hand in the garden's design, sometimes subverting her plans outright. Wildflowers such as ox-eye daisies, fireweed, muskmallow and bladder campion — some might call them weeds — take root among cultivated companions, including peonies, delphiniums and lilies.

The main plot is an ever-changing experimental canvas. Last year it was a palette of daisies; the year before it was brassicas like kale and broccoli. This summer, under her artist's eye, herbs of all varieties are growing in the raised beds.

"I want it to have lots of different greys and greens and make it almost like a painting."

Forsyth, 57, learned the basics of photography out of necessity while working in a university biology department in her native Germany.

Trained as a botanical illustrator, she was confronted with an unruly bunch of insects that simply refused to sit still to have their portraits painted.

"They moved so fast that I had to learn how to photograph them," she recalls.

## Photo tips

by The Canadian Press

Turid Forsyth's tips for photographing gardens:

**Know Your Subject:** The most basic thing is observing your garden. You'll learn when it looks its best.

**Light:** Full sun casts harsh shadows and washes out colors. Early-morning and late-evening light is most flattering. You can also use an umbrella over your subject to diffuse the light.

**Composition:** If the background is distracting, you'll lose the impact of your subject.

**Equipment:** Forsyth uses high-resolution Velvia Fujichrome slide film (50ASA) with a tripod and a shutter-release cable to enable long exposures. She most often uses a 50-mm macro (or close-up) lens, but wide-angle lenses are good for getting an overview.

## Tough act to follow

PARIS (Reuters) — An elderly couple has won France's 19th pig squeal championship for the best imitation of pigs in heat.

Some 3,000 people gathered in Trie-sur-Baise, a village of 1,000 inhabitants in the Pyrenees, for the yearly pig festival which draws people from as far as Switzerland.

The participants were required to mimic the squeals of pigs in various states of mind, from birth to slaughter, including imitations of a bored pig, a hungry pig and a pig in heat.

Joseph Ceschin and his wife Constance, both 75, won the jury's hearts with the gruntings of pigs in love.

The prize?

A whole cooked pig.

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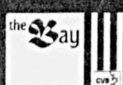
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