

YARD JUDGING IS EXPLAINED

Garden Contest Committee Member Tells How Scoring is Done

(The following article explaining the methods of judging is reproduced in the Village Yard and Garden Contest, was written by H. J. Coryell, chairman of Birmingham's Horticultural and a member of the judging committee.)

By R. J. CORYELL

To increase home interest in Birmingham, a Yard and Garden Contest was one of the projects instituted.

Committees to judge the numerous gardens have been appointed and one of the several visits have already been made.

Each garden is scored according to the National Yard and Garden Contest rules. Each section of the ground divides the grounds under two major heads: front yards and rear yards.

The front is judged by the committee of the plant, flower, shade, which means shade trees properly located; the feeling of hospitality; neat appearance and a well kept maintenance.

The rear yard is scored by the other six pairs of the judges, plant shade, which means shade trees properly located; the feeling of hospitality; neat appearance and a well kept maintenance.

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It is recognized by the judging committees that the rear grounds express the desires and hobbies of the owners. The carrying out of the details are scoring points in the eyes of the judges.

It is the hope of those that have worked so hard to carry out the project in Birmingham how owners will do the same for their own grounds according to good landscaping and not be hampered by rigid set rules in their desires.

(Concluded 1 from Page 1) if Mr. Coryell will kindly discuss this phase of the problem.

Cite Valuations.

Upon this particular phase of the subject and referring to the committee's report fully published in the Eccentric, issue of April 28, one notes upon comparison that the established valuation of Bloomfield Township is making three and one half times that of Troy Township, while the delinquent taxes of Elmhurst are less than one-half that of Troy.

In addition to the delinquent taxes, if as and when collected, the other asset listed for Troy Township would put in at \$1,000,000. Town halls are in active demand among ordinary purchasers and when disposed of under city incorporation will not yield more money for the City of Birmingham's share.

Troy's liabilities are listed in the form of tax anticipation notes in the amount of \$78,000, equal to one-half their delinquent taxes. These notes must be paid and if not paid before city incorporation the pro rata charge against the village of Troy portion of the village will be payable, as I understand, to the city as an entity. Bloomfield Township seems to have no item of like nature among its liabilities."

A. D. B. VAN ZANDT

"The objection made by Mr. Van Zandt's letter and mine as it seems to me," said Mr. Coryell when informed of the communication, "is since the assets of the Troy Township were to be greater than liabilities, the new city would be in a better financial position than the old."

Connally Answers.

Mr. Connally, who is a member of the Birmingham Board, made a special study of the Troy-Township side of the question, enlarged on Mr. Coryell's remarks as follows:

"Mr. Van Zandt calls attention to an item of \$178,000 in tax anticipation notes, owned by Troy Township. He expresses fear that this sum of Birmingham's share of these notes would be an unfair burden."

"In other words, Birmingham would have double security behind the tax anticipation note, a cent of delinquent taxes and a cent of taxes in the future by Birmingham on Troy properties. Even then, the one year grant saving of \$50,000, Birmingham through city incorporation would have to pay for any loss due to Troy's unpaid taxes."

Mr. Connally, Nease Hall,

"Mr. Van Zandt maintains that Birmingham's share of the Troy town hall would be difficult to realize on. The town hall will not be within the city limits and will continue to be useful to Troy Township. Troy can well afford to pay a substantial amount for the town hall in the half for which Birmingham is responsible."

"Mr. Van Zandt also claims that the changing of the form of government under which Birmingham operates would cause

dramatic changes in the physical as well as the social life.

To all intents and purposes Birmingham is already a city. Birmingham already has all the functions of a city except a mayor and council. No government, be it a village or city, can control the physical development of its bounds without adequate zoning laws.

"If Mr. Van Zandt is sincerely interested in maintaining the residential aspect of Birmingham, he should be for zoning ordinances. No government, be it a village or city, can control the physical development of its bounds without adequate zoning laws."

(Concluded 2 from Page 1) facilities available, alarms and road conditions.

In some outsize sections where water is available no one knows whether or not the hydrant threads fit and of course one does not know whether the gate valve is open or closed and whether there is any water available in the system. These points should be known to every householder in the world.

The village enjoys a rating by the inspection bureau of Class 6, which is equivalent to the standard roads and streets are rated from Class 1 to 10, depending on protection available.

A fire department is not the only factor on which this rating is based, however, and factors entering into the rating are water supply, fire department, fire alarm,

police, building laws, hazards and structural conditions.

On Premiums.

Most of the insurance territory is rated as Class 10. The difference between Class 10 and Class 6 means premium \$60,000 per year in fire insurance.

Some of the improvements in the community might secure a better rating if they had a stream of pond available and were used for irrigation.

A large part of the hazard in the open country arises from grass fires in certain seasons so the year.

What could be done to effectively control wild grasses and fires to assure the safety of homes in the country?

The fire equipment does not consist of a complete fire fighter, leave the corporate liability off, but the Commission would welcome any constructive effort by the corporation concerned, which would need the services of such men who need

the disposition of the problem has been attempted.

The fire at the Evergreen Sat-

urnite, now owned by the Bloom-

field Hills Village Improvement Asso-

ciation, and by the small town-

ships park.

The houses, believed to have been built with a shop, a garage, a

large refrigerator in the kitchen, were spread out through the walls to the

attic before discovered at about 7 A.M. by Mrs. Eason, who had turned on the refrigerator at 6:30 a.m.

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