I have often told my three children that "your Mother is the very best friend you will ever have upon this earth—you never can do too much for her comfort and security."

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 18 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1941 $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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Home Garden Projects Growing Sturdily

Youths Enjoying First Experiences In Growing Things

By KATHRYN UMPHREY

Midsummer finds practically all of the original 48 students who signed up for the home-garden project this spring hard at work in their various gardens. The plan was started by Miss Frances Looney, high school biology teacher, and is being carried on through cooperation with the Birmingham Branch of the National Farm and Garden Club and the summer recreation program.

Advisers make periodic visits to each student's garden, and what each subsequent visit they find the enthusiasm of the young gardeners growing a little higher. What they are doing with their plots of land is no less remarkable than their enthusiasm.

Earl Mudge's Garden

Consider the garden being done by Earl Mudge, on Merrill street. This is his first experience, and he is enjoying it no end, using a small plot of land behind his house where there used to be a greenhouse. Earl wasn't there when I called, but his mother told me all about his work.

He has some rather large cucumber vines, numerous strong, healthy tomato plants, and some green pole beans. He has also planted a small flower bed. Already there were some good sized squash on vines too—all this in but a few square feet where last year there was nothing but ground. At this point Earl is trying some experiments with irrigation. Needless to say, weeds were entirely foreign to the plot.

Next I went over to Frank street to see Burton Cole, who will be in 10-A grade next fall. Luckily he was home, so I got a little more first hand information this time. Burton wanted mostly to show me his tomato plants, numbering about 100 in all. On his big tomato plants, it seems, he has been trying some experiments—he clips the "suckers," that is, the leaves that come between the branches, thus more strength can go into the tomatoes. He also showed me that all branches bearing tomatoes were supported by strings. Otherwise, he pointed out, branches would become so heavy that they would pull the plants down. To prove his point, Burton found one branch that has 15 tomatoes on it.

Next came the Kentucky Wonder beans—six rows of them, followed by some ground beans. "Something else I'd like you to see," Burton said, leading the way to the cabbages and lettuce. "At the first cabbages were gone, I cut the plants right down to the ground, and now we will have some more before long."

Likes Tree Culture

Other vegetables in the garden included several rows of corn, carrots, lettuce and the like. At the back of the garden is Burton's nursery, where he has one elm and several very small horse chestnut trees. It seems that he gathered up some chestnuts, planted them, and is now in the tree business.

One oak tree which he started last year, and had to transplant this season, has grown four feet this year. "And to think," he said laconically, "that I always thought trees grew slowly."

All this apparent interest in gardens made me think that perhaps Burton planned to do something along that line of work for a living. But it turned out that I was wrong, for he wants to be a weatherman, with a garden, and a good one, for a hobby.

The attitude these young gardeners are taking toward their work makes the whole project an impressive one. If the project had been planned merely to keep the young folks out of mischief, it would have had some value. But it wasn't. There is something pretty wonderful about working with plants and watching them grow. Its bound to make one feel that he has his feet on the ground—its an experience that no youngster grew up without in the olden days, and fortunately, an experience that Birmingham young people can have for the asking.

Governor's Daughters Start Retail Store Defense Stamp Drive

LANSING (Special)—Ellen and Jo Ann, pictured above with their father, Michigan's Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner, purchasing U. S. Defense Savings Stamps at a retail store. According to Frank N. Isbey, Chairman of Michigan's Defense Savings Committee, Defense Savings Stamps went on sale in 60,000 Michigan retail stores July 10th.

Two Cars Afire On Same Evening

Seven grass fires and two automobile fires were reported to the Fire Department during the past week.

The grass fires, all presumably started without the necessary permits, caused little or no property damage. On July 26, an Edison pole was set afire at 14-Mile and Melton street, in the Sheffield Estates subdivision.

Both auto fires occurred on Sunday and were caused by cigaret sparks, firemen believe. At 3:45 a. m., the department was called to the F. W. Dubois residence, 303 Baldwin avenue, where a 1941 car was burning inside. The upholstery was ruined. At 2:42 a. m., while passing through the City, the car of John Martens, Pleasant Ridge, caught fire from sparks dropped in a rear seat cushion. The blaze was extinguished at Woodward avenue and Emmons.

Allied Youth Plan Tea on Aug. 19

Allied Youth is planning a musical tea and garden party in the studios of Gwladis Luloff, 7930 E. Jefferson Avenue on Aug. 19, from 3:30 to 5:00 p. m.

Mrs. T. D. Maule is the general chairman; assisting her will be Mrs. Willard Worcester, program chairman; Mrs. John F. Siefert, in charge of refreshments; and Mrs. James Edwin Hancock, chairman of hostesses. Hostesses will be: Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, Mrs. James Shaw, Mrs. H. N. Torrey, Mrs. Frank Sladen, Mrs. Charles Parcells, Mrs. Elmer Speck, Mrs. James E. Atkinson, Mrs. Frank Lambert, Mrs. Emerson Davis, Mrs. Ford Ballantyne, Mrs. Robert Biggers, and Mrs. Elmer Lunsey.

This will be a silver tea for the benefit of the organization.

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Another Air Cooler Installation OK'd

The City Commission, Monday, approved installation of an air cooling system at the Kay Cooley Shops, Inc., 190 West Maple avenue, the place where the store front is now being remodeled.

In regard to a recent installation at Cunningham's drug store, City Manager Egbert declared that a permit had not yet been issued.

"We are checking the water consumption every two weeks to see how much is used," he said. "This we can tell better whether the permit should be granted."

Both of these units use water to cool compressor pumps, and because the City has no excess of water, an request has been denied, however.

What Your City Commission Is Doing—

July 28, 1941

Bills were approved in the amount of $1,043.19.

The removal of an elm tree at 171 Worth Street and the removal of two box elders from the west side of Oakdale immediately south of Oakland, were approved.

Permission granted to Kay Cooley, Inc., to use city water in connection with an air conditioning and cooling unit.

Retail Merchant's License granted to Nash Birmingham Co., 437 S. Woodward.

Birmingham City Employees' Union, Local No. 77 presented a request that consideration be given their request for additional compensation.

Report received from City Manager regarding the operation of the new well.

City Manager authorized to purchase recording device for the present storage tank to determine the water level.

City Manager and City Attorney authorized to attend a meeting in Lansing, Aug. 1, to discuss action to test the validity of the Firemen's Hours and Policemen's Salary Acts.

ELIZABETH J. SHERIDAN,
Deputy City Clerk.

Two Cars Crash At Oakland, Hunter

Another crash occurred Monday at Oakland avenue and Hunter boulevard. According to the police report, Theodore Sirene, of 1460 Wimbledon, driving south on Hunter, was struck by a machine going east on Oakland, driven by L. J. Cowen, 1740 Oakland avenue. According to Sirene, Cowen ran through a red light, hit his car and then struck the traffic signal post. Carl Streling, 184 Willits and a Detroit man, Roy Hathaway, were listed as witnesses.

The people both North and South are still fighting the Civil War. Tell this to the boys who think they can pacify conquered countries.—Portland, Me., Evening Express.

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3 Artists Added To Orchestra for New Composition

An enthusiastic audience of music lovers attended Will-O-Way Theatre Sunday afternoon to hear another successful concert given by the Will-O-Way Youth Orchestra under the direction of Celia Jane Merrill.

Miss Merrill is accomplishing wonders in welding this group into a unit whose ensemble work is worthy of many an older and more experienced group. With a solid musical knowledge, a definite flair for interpretation and conducting, this talented young lady guides enthusiasm herself and her orchestra seems to catch this enthusiasm in every detail.

The orchestra was enlarged for Sunday's concert, adding Miss Sylvia Van Riper, flutist; Bob Schroeder, bassoonist; and Miss Eva Goldstein, French horn. With this enlarged group, Miss Merrill chose the "Antique Suites" by Albert Stoessel as the opening number. Mr. Stoessel is a conductor of note, a member of the Julliard Graduate School of Music faculty and a composer. This is the first time this new work has been played in Michigan. Mr. Stoessel could have been more than proud of the reading given his work. The violin solo parts were handled very capably by Joseph Kertesz and Bill Sage. The former, incidentally, is a Hungarian refugee. The flute solos in the number, Sylvia Van Riper, displayed a beautiful liquid tone which added greatly to the total effect. The audience liked the Antique Suite. It demanded more of it and Miss Merrill responded by bringing back the entire orchestra after the completion of the final number on the program and repeated the three last movements of the suite.

After the intermission, the first number was "Variations on a Theme by Tschaikowsky" by Arensky. This half of the program was for the strings only and this beautiful but very difficult work by Arensky was capably performed. There were one or two rough places but Miss Merrill held her group together and smoothed things out beautifully. It was a fine reading of a very difficult work.

"Air on the G String" by Bach, for the strings only, was given a beautiful reading. The three solo violins, played by Bill Sage, Berna Roth and Charles Turner, produced the resonant tonal effect that this number demands. They were strongly supported by the rest of the string section and unquestionably this was one of the most beautiful numbers done by the orchestra this season.

Next Saturday and Sunday afternoons the featured soloist will be Miss Sylvia Van Riper, flutist. She will play the Bach B minor suite, accompanied by the orchestra. As usual, Miss Merrill will conduct.

Smallmouth Bass Experiment Started

EAST LANSING—The possibility that southern Michigan warmwater streams now furnishing no bass fishing can be improved for smallmouth bass grounds will be started soon on a stretch of Red Cedar river where Michigan State College owns a half a mile of frontage west of Dobie road.

Casting of two-foot-square concrete blocks weighing 1,200 pounds each begins August 1. Long dams of the big blocks will narrow the channel and so speed the current as to scour the sand from the rubble bottom. The old rubble bottom is productive of fish food where the sand is barren. In all water behind the dams, the material dislodged will build bars.

Nash Garage Adds Service Department

The Nash Birmingham Company, 467 South Woodward avenue, has announced a new service department which is now in operation, according to C. H. Cowling, head of the company. Service will be available for Nash cars, and also, for all makes of automobiles.

In announcing the new department, Cowling said: "We'll show our customer why certain work has to be done when it is needed."

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