

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 8

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1942

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Plants Popping Up In Victory Garden Demonstration Lot

By KATHRYN UMPHREY
Green plants are beginning to come up inside the white picket fence surrounding the vacant lot at Willis and Bates street. This appearance of growth is adding more than ever to the conjecture by increasing numbers of passers-by who stop every day to inquire of workers just what is going on. Lots of people don't know it, but this is Birmingham's demonstration Victory Garden—unique in that most cities are still talking about having one, while ours is practically finished. A community project, this garden being sponsored by the Birmingham Garden Club, as a guide for gardeners in the city.

Planted Together
For instance, if you look closely you will see that carrots and radishes are planted together, the idea being that by the time radishes are gone, carrots will be getting a good start. They are also planning to use the succession planting theory, thus utilizing the whole garden through all of the summer.

These and other innovations are responsible for interest town-wide are showing in the garden. Although actually the picket fence is too low to lean over and talk in, it is a natural barrier, especially to those who are on bicycles and women on bicycles and men come by every evening to note progress and get advice. Business men, it seems have made a habit of dropping over for a look-see and then stopping at the nearest drug store to discuss gardens over their "coke."

Naturally this interest places the workers immensely and to foster it, they have put up white benches so that people will come in and sit down while waiting for their problems. The benches, as well as the gate and signs, were being made by a manual training class, under the direction of Robert Briery, instructor.

The Leaders
Women responsible for the garden include Mrs. Elmore F. Wollering, chairman, and Mrs. E. L. Mrs. Howard Hager, Mrs. Victor Spike, and Mrs. W. C. Howe, club president. They've been working the work for several weeks—bringing their lunches, and going home much too late for dinner, yet admitting they are having a perfectly marvelous time.

The garden itself is only a portion of the Victory Garden Project, according to Mrs. Wollering, who reviewed the work done to date. Early this spring a Victory Garden desk, in charge of Mrs. Craig H. Richey, was set up at the civilian defense center. The committee obtained a list of all vacant lots and contacted owners for permission to use them. More than 40 lots were obtained in this way for lots who otherwise would not have had a garden. In addition, twice as many Victory Gardens were started on private property.

The question, "Just what is a victory garden?" then came up. "An glad you asked that," Mrs. Wollering said, "for ever so many people do. A Victory Garden is a garden planted by permission for his own consumption. Every garden in Birmingham can be, or is, a Victory Garden."

Grow Own Food
"The big idea behind all this is that the government feels that people should, if necessary, be able to provide a goodly share of their own food, particularly vegetables. If everyone in Birmingham had his own garden, raising food for his own consumption during the summer and winter, it would free transportation, labor, and time for war purposes."

Mrs. Wollering is most interested in planting for canning. "Even if one doesn't have much space," she commented, "tomato plants, at least, could be mixed in with the flowers, thus giving something to can."

She went on to say that people have been most cooperative, re-counting with a laugh the time she was at the garden, puzzling as to where, and mostly how, her committee was to plant the evergreens, crabapple trees and shrubs furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Corryell. Walking by just then, Harold E. Claydon noticed her quandary, and after some discussion, planted them himself.

Donors
Ray Connolly furnished the fertilizer and also the sod used for the paths between garden plots. Mrs. Howard Hager, who noted \$10 toward the purchase of an American flag for the garden, and Mrs. E. J. Anderson, who gave \$10 more for seeds. High school youngsters came over in their spare time to help plant the fence—an old snow fence furnished by the county—and planting. Wayland C. Garrison of Ohio, furnished the pink daphne and Polyantha everblooming rose.

That a garden can be both practical and attractive is proven here. The lot is divided into four plots—namely into salad, summer storage, and canning gardens. Grassy green paths run between the plots which are edged with flowers. The very back is an arrangement of shrubs and evergreens, while a wide strip up one side of the garden has been planted with cucumbers and pumpkins, and a similar space on the other side is devoted to squash and gourds.

Bits of Birmingham

Believed to be the first Oakland County man to be arrested under the new blackout law. William F. Wild, 2606 Dundee road, Huntington Woods, was fined \$25 last Friday night by Judge O'Dell in Bloomfield Hills.

When he paid his fine, he was considerably more meek than he was the night of the blackout. May 3, when he refused to stop his car on Woodward avenue. Stopped at the north Bloomfield limits, he angrily drove away, and forced auxiliary police to jump out of his path at Long Lake roads and Brady Lane. He was finally captured at Long Pine street, and next day, he talked of suing, protesting that the City had no ordinance covering blackouts, forgetting that the police can close any road at any time if necessary.

Two boys reported Sunday afternoon that they had stolen a whole car at Lincoln and Cranbrook. Police found that it had been stolen in Detroit, and that the thieves had taken wheels, tires and spotlight. It belonged to Edmund Schoof, Almont.

Clarence F. Kramer, of Broadway boulevard, has been granted letters from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a weather strip.

Now that golf balls are so scarce, why not reduce the water hazards and cut the rough a little shorter? In a letter to the editor, Joseph Williams, of 19217 Heshy street, Detroit, were arrested last Friday night at Stoneycroft golf club, where they had raked a peak of balls from the green. They were arrested with a special rake and brought their bathing suits. Each was fined \$20.

Police here have checked on letters from Rogers, formerly in a room at a nearby riding club. He did not report for induction, and had given notice of his change of address, although it is said that he enlisted in the cavalry. He was last heard of in St. Louis, Mo.

Sgt. Earl Moody stopped in a "barber shop" heretofore, which can help our Birmingham auxiliary have more force by loaning the helmets to use.

They will be painted, then returned at the war's end.

An advertiser recently wanted to trade his saxophone for a cow. The cow makes the same noise but can also give milk.

This Wanderer is surprised by the boldness of some youngsters. After police had seized more than a hundred bicycles for lack of the 25-cent license, this Wanderer expected that those without the tags would "lay low." But the youngsters picked up three bikes at Quarten, three at Six Lane, three at Baldwin and six at Barnum, last Friday.

You readers may think it silly that this column report the weekly quota of dog bites. However, this Wanderer feels that the publicity serves to remind the public that dogs are a problem and that owners must maintain a deep trotting to a minimum. Bill Loewen, 9 years old, son of Leonard Loewen, was bitten by a dog on Woodward street last Friday by a stray dog at Oakland and Park. Sunday afternoon, a dog named "Bert," of 1569 Buckingham, was bitten by a dog owned by E. P. Kimbrough, 625 E. Brookside.

In a clearly funny himself, Wayne George, 4 years old, was bitten by a rabbit.

When a ball game is called off, the papers print "Weather," but they can't say "rain" or whatever the reason is, for fear of giving away a military secret. What's the difference?

A resident living on North Glenhurst phoned to say: "What'll I do about my 5 1/2-year old boy? Older boys are always picking on him." We thought boys of 10 to 11 had more sense than that; anyway, we suggested to the mother that she seek the aid of Maurice Fouracre, principal of Quarten School.

Some time last week a portable radio was stolen from Leonard Electric.

Mrs. Henry Nash, 1447 Dorchester, is back from Florida, home a little earlier because of gasoline rationing.

Joseph T. Wooster, 511 Park, parked his car back of the Dixie Diner Saturday morning, forgetting to remove the keys. Three hours later, it was found by a passerby near Gray Court. Bill DeVault, 612 Wiblemont, reported it.

Story of Convoy Among the Latest Books at Library

By LINDO MOORE
How does it feel to cross across the Atlantic in a convoy ship? Quentin Reynolds, the foreign correspondent, magazine editor and story-seeker, extraordinary, decided to investigate. His book, *Convoy*, is the result of that voyage and has been recently added to the rental collection of Baldwin Public Library.

Mr. Reynolds didn't feel much of anything, except maybe a suspicion of seasickness, but he spent a lot of time yarning with officers and crew learning quite a few bits of curious lore. To further fill in the time, he wrote down some of the more bizarre of his own recollections. Some folk by the name of the Atlantic, it must be nice longer having a junior high school and then found by a janitor Friday morning. At noon it was stolen again, and later found at Frank and Purdy streets. Sally needs a boy to that.

Other books recently added to the library include *Land and a Bit of Good Comrad*, by Felix Salten. The creator of the famous presents a gallery of animal portraits. Far from sentimental these little tales and essays have a simplicity and charm that is refreshing.

Indiana, by A. T. Wright. Strange, compelling and a bit mysterious, this novel is laid in a completely imaginary continent. It presents a gallery of animal portraits, the mode of life of its inhabitants made such an impression on John Loring, American consul, that he decided to spend his life there. His experiences, there, his friends, and the tale of his romance, his adventures as a pioneer Indian make absorbing reading.

Welcome Soldier! by Clark McKim. Plot grows out of a southern debt entirely imaginary engagement to a young soldier, only having a junior high school. War I. He turns up as brass hat visiting his town in present war.

Q. MacDonald Had Farm, by Angus Macdonald. "Old Mac" was settler, pioneer, and farmer and his son's recollections of him make a pungent and readable book not at all like "Life with Father," though it inevitably invites comparison.

The Last Time I Saw Paris, by Helen Parkes. The author's 20 years spent in the French capital are reflected in this nostalgic record.

Cross Creek, by Marjorie Rawlings. Mrs. Rawlings' section of the country might seem (and does) eerie and strange to outsiders, but those who live there like it. In the style of "South Moon Under," and "When the Whippoorwill."

Two recent thrillers for the mystery fans: *The Black Alibi*, by Cornell Woolrich. Blood-curdler with South American city as background, with escaped jaguar as chief suspect.

Calamity Town, by Ellery Queen. Mystery sleuth "testing" in small town uncovers murder and sudden death and several other things.

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