

DOWN TO EARTH

# Gardener-Specializes In One Type of Plant

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many of our readers are moving into new homes and are eager to either re-plan their yards or plan a new garden from literally piles of clay.

A very important part of the whole of the yard is the service area where clothes are hung, tools are stored, etc. The modern appliances often eliminate drying clothes outdoors but I don't believe there is a homemaker who doesn't insist upon a line to air clothes.

The other day I saw this situation handled cleverly. We know that the permanent upright pole never

adds to the beauty of a yard so this handyman had sunk a pipe a size larger than his metal laundry pole into the ground. So dirt would not clog the hole he had made a removable cover by pouring cement into a can as a mold and inserted a metal handle when the cement was setting. The hooks for the clothes end of the line were attached to the house. The laundry reel is used as a support by many homemakers.

**REMEMBER THAT** the general plan for your grounds should have three requirements met to the "demands" of the homemaker living for your family—a service area is generally centered around the kitchen exits. The "fun" demands of all ages of your family while the third need is a service area which meets the general pattern for your home architecture, the goals you wish to fulfill considering the future of your property and your long range program to make your home property a haven of rest.

Don't forget my old motto: "Place the right plant in the right place and you will always have success."

**IN THE GARDEN** section of Baldwin library you will find a collection of books which will list plants, tell their potential heights and their requirements as to soil and light. The area they will grow in also told us we must remember we are on "the upper level" for many plants to be hardy with our climate.

The "Plant Buyers Guide" at the library will indicate to you where out of the ordinary selections can be purchased. In Birmingham we have another plant enthusiast we wish to introduce this week. Paul Cardell, 322 Suffolk road.

Cardell has as his hobby tuberous rooted begonias. As his business assignment is research he has a great deal in common with our guest of last week, L. A. Hyland.

**IT IS INTERESTING** that men in research often choose gardening as their hobby. They find in this field sufficient challenges to hold their interest. They always develop unique "systems" which are worthy of reporting for others to share.

Here are some highlights on the culture of tuberous rooted begonias as given by Cardell. Select a flower bed with nearly complete shade. It would be best if you can avoid root competition from trees. Clean the bed of existing soil and prepare a bed a foot deep with a mixture of one third composted cow manure and two thirds peat moss—no soil. Fish meal is good to use as part of your ratio for cow manure. Remember these plants like moisture.

You can start these begonias in the spring in two ways. About the last of February start the begonias in peat moss for best root development, rather than starting them in other media. Do not fertilize and keep the temperature low.

**AS THE SECOND** alternative if you do not have growing space in your home you may start them directly in the flower beds which have been previously prepared by inserting the hot caps. The best time for this project is mid-April. Don't place the sprouted begonias which have been started in peat moss outdoors until after May 20, and always place the leaves so that they open from the base towards the viewer. By following this practice the flowers will develop face forward and give more uniformity to the entire bed.

Remember they love water and

"One of our waitresses, at the breakfast hour, served coffee and toast to a patron; 10 minutes later she breezed in with the orange juice. The customer complained of the sequence. "Are you married?" asked the waitress. "Yes," said the customer. "Wah!" says our dilemma. "Why don't we have breakfast at home?"

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## Additional Ford Officials

Additional men from the Birmingham area have been named in executive offices of the newly established Ford Tractor division of the Ford Motor company by Thomas A. Farrell, vice president and general manager.

Farrell said that W. B. Garber, 149 Madison, would continue his Dearborn Motors management in the service department for the new firm. He has been with the organization since 1948.

Another who will retain his position with Ford Tractor is H. F. Froelich of 19991 Glenwood. Associated with Dearborn Motors since 1948, he is assistant general purchasing agent.

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## Three Birmingham Merchants Report Fraudulent Checks

Birmingham police are investigating three fraudulent check reports received within a few moments of each other on Aug. 17. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the checks were cashed for strangers by John Krasnick, 1204 S. Woodward; Charles Reynolds,

1228 S. Woodward; and Matthew Cammareri, 288 E. Maple.

A check by detectives revealed that the checks were not passed by the same man.

"THE PASSEES may be working together," Moxley commented, "and if so, Birmingham merchants should be doubly careful."

"Police departments and banks throughout the country have many times issued warnings about cashing checks for unknown persons. It isn't safe."

"Here in Birmingham we have had another outbreak of this type of crime. Much as our businessmen may dislike withholding a service from a customer, it is good insurance to refuse checks unless you know the endorser."

"Knowing the firm or person on whose account the check is drawn is little or no help, since the check can easily have been stolen. The answer is simply, 'Don't cash it.'"

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