

Have You Met . . .  
 Mr. and Mrs. William V. Phelps and children, Richard (William, age 2 1/2, and Gregory Lang, 3 months). The Phelps moved from Mt. Clemens to 2800 Island Lake lane. He is president of the Hallmark Homes and a member of the Builders Association.

**DOWN TO EARTH**

**Holiday Plants  
 Take Extra Care**

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
 Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The doorbell rings and there is a gift holiday plant for you to enjoy!  
 It is easy to forget the technique that assures you the most pleasure from this type of personal remembrance.

The rule for all flowering plants is that they be watered at least once a day. If you find that you are going to be gone three or four days, water the plant normally and then take aluminum foil and wrap it snugly around the lower part of the plant, at least the base of the lower leaves.

In this way the moisture which is captured will "hold" the plant for the few days you will be gone. If a plant receives too much water, the lower leaves will turn yellow, so use the motto: "A little is a bit—of—ten."

A plant prefers a cool room and if you keep your home at a very high temperature, the longevity of the plant is sacrificed. If the plant is near a window (at the bottom of a stairwell or near the opening and closing of an outside door).

FOR THE money investment, I think that a cyclamen plant gives number one value. This houseplant takes 18 months to attain the flowering cycle and requires daily care from the grower during this interval.

The cyclamen will produce new buds and flowers for weeks after you receive it. The white flowered variety is a favorite to the in with holiday decorations. The cyclamen is one of those exotic plants whose culture should be left to the hands of an expert, such as your florist. When the outside leaves begin to die off, this favorite is getting tired and seeking a rest.

DO NOT ATTEMPT to carry it over to another year in the corn stage after all the leaves have fallen. Space and time is not valuable unless you have a greenhouse and a good book of plant growing to constantly guide you.

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regulated its height and flowering date by the use of the proper amount of light, ventilation and temperature.

THE POINSETTIA is an eight hour plant which means that in the fall it "wants to go to bed when the greenhouse man closes shop" and will not tolerate any artificial light whatsoever while it is forming its colored bracts with the yellow flower center.

After this plant has had a summer outdoors and is brought inside before the first killing frost, it must be in a room which will not have the electricity turned on at night.

You are the only one who can make the decision: "Have I enough room to dedicate an area to the dark nights imperative for growing a poinsettia?"

I will admit that it makes a nice foliage plant if you are satisfied with this status.

THE CHRISTMAS begonia is another plant which has a mass of lovely pink flowers lined for the Christmas market. This plant, too, is difficult to take out of the hands of a specialist in growing for the months ahead.

The Christmas cactus is one of those fine plants we always seem to identify with our grandmothers. Maybe I understood they went to bed early in those days, before TV.

This cactus is a short day plant and in the fall should be raised on "the dry side." It likes to be in a north window while forming buds and should not be near a lamp or artificial light. If you have a basement window with dull light, that is a good location for it.

JERUSALEM Cherry is another plant which belongs to the expert

when it comes to bringing it into "berry." It is very fussy and with too hot a temperature or too much water, it will drop its berries.

I have seen some research being done at the present time on the development of a vivid red salvia as a house plant. There are many angles to be solved with a new introduction. One is public acceptance, and then follows the right number of light hours per day, the temperature, and how to bring it to peak production for the Christmas market. The "sample" looked good to me.

Leading Theater Role Played by Drama Major

Beatrice Brewster, a junior at Vassar college, appeared in a leading role in the Experimental Theater production of the ancient Greek comedy, "Lysistrata," by the satirist, Aristophanes, presented Dec. 11-12.

Beatrice, a drama major, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Brewster of 5360 Brookdale road.

Have You Met . . .

The Harley A. Prudden and 20 month old daughter, Pamela Sue, 10954 Dunbar? Prudden is a sales representative for Michigan for The Sheldon Claire Company, Chicago publishers.

Herta and Carl Ude of 284 Oak Hill drive? They moved last October from Detroit where Ude is a designer for General Motors styling section. They have one son, Edward, age 16.

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BHAM ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT Ed Pool (left) and Matt Cammarere, chairman of the club's crippled children's committee, longingly look over a station wagon similar to one the club hopes to present in the near future to the Oakland County Crippled Children's Society. Rotarians will be on city streets Friday morning to sell copies of a Detroit newspaper, proceeds of the sale to be placed in the "station wagon fund" (Eccentric Staff Photo)

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