

Gifts on Hobby Sure To Please Gardeners

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
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Often as the deadline hour approaches before Christmas the kind of garden lovers are puzzled as to appropriate gifts to supplement garden programs.

As the garden lovers are a broadminded clan, I know they welcome the money to select articles on their "wish list." So, with this suggestion, your problem of giving is solved and perhaps these ideas may be of value to you:

Bird feeding stations provide entertainment for the observer and should be placed near a window. Garden lovers go out of their way to make their gardens a haven for birds due to their appetite for insects.

As you plan into the future with garden design you will be interested in supplementing the feed you can give birds by the berries which will be grown for them on these trees and shrubs. Japanese barberry, the birch parrotia, dogwood, hawthorne, Russian olive, honeysuckle, flowering crab, sumac, mountain ash, the viburnums, and the snowberry will provide you with a heavy

of attractions for the feathered friends.

YOU WILL enjoy your birds more if you have a small bird book handy at the window so, as the birds call on you, their identification and habits can be new knowledge for you.

If you have an African violet fancier on your list there is now a complete box of all of the items necessary for the culture of violets. This would be an excellent gift for a slant in who would benefit from the therapy of producing a superior plant and earn the praise of callers.

Amaryllis bulbs are on the market now and are a fine investment for winter plant pleasure and beauty.

They are one of the most beautiful flowers you can raise in a sunny winter window. I always start several at one time for surprise gifts.

PLANT THIS large bulb with one third of the top exposed above the soil, water well and place in the dark for 10 days. Then bring

it into the sun and watch it grow like "jack-in-the-beanstalk."

These bulbs make a perfect gift for a "grandma" who terrays her plants and sharing them with others.

Paper white narcissus make an attractive gift with a pottery dish and colorful stones to place around the bulbs to "firm them" in the dish.

Plant the bulbs, water well, then place in the dark for ten days to assure a good root growth. Place in the sun. In the evening if you place them on a table beneath a lamp compliments will be yours.

WITH OUR casual living these days and life centered around the terrace (which you can spray for insect control), makes commuting and hours of garden work pay dividends.

Portable barbecues, and the skewers for unusual combinations will give you suggestions for gift giving the last minute.

Thermal buckets and thermos sets go together for the terrace or traveling.

As you examine the new accessories for the terrace and garden it is amazing how many of the articles have foreign labels—Spain, Portugal, Holland, Mexico, the West Indies, etc.

A lightweight aluminum table will fill endless assignments as it aids you when planting in various areas of the yard, at terrace picnics, and buffets in the house.

A book just out is filled with good garden talk, "Grow Extra Dollars at Home," by Ray Reynolds and shows how a retired person can supplement his income by growing unusual plants for the market. Each page is filled with advice by this earnest grower who has been a success at this very assignment.

HE GIVES advice for growing plants which have appeal for the May buyer. This is a wonderful book to place with a person who loves gardening and has just retired from business.

May I add that a woman with challenging years ahead with a family would find this might open up new opportunities for her, too.

A new set of books has just come on the market, called "Rinehart's Garden Library." They run around 100 pages and have the most colorful, vivid permanent covers I have ever seen. Each is written by a different specialist.

This series of small books have abundant illustrations. The various books in the series are "Evergreens," "Small Fruits," "Vegetables," "Annuals," "Roses," and "Laws."

The following will be off the press shortly too, "House Plants," "Shade Trees," "Perennials," "Soil Conditioning," "Fruit Trees," "Exhibiting," and "Bulbs."

THE REASON I emphasize books in this column is that so many of our readers are new converts to gardening and get pleasure from learning their facts for successful growing.

Many of you have been following the program in horticultural therapy at Pontiac state hospital where mental cases have been working with cut flowers. The National Farm and Garden club deliver them by motor corps to the hospital.

Another corps of trained persons work with the patients in arrangement, and still another group work within the greenhouse passing on to the patients the peace of mind by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

results individually are worthy of note.

A Merry and Happy Christmas, garden friends.



MRS. FLORENCE BENNETT, 18144 Sunnybrook, becomes the first salaried worker of Lathrup. The former Southfield township employee was named acting city clerk by city councilmen last week and is holding daily office hours at the House-in-the-woods, 19600 Forest. Her salary was set at \$65 a week. (Eccentric Staff Photo)



CHARLES R. MARSHALL, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger D. Marshall, 1974 Graceland, recently graduated from Michigan State College where he was granted a Bachelor of Science degree in light construction. Prior to graduation exercises he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force and will report for active duty soon. A graduate of Baldwin High school in 1949, Marshall attended Andover Prep school in New Hampshire.

State Winning Battle Against Careless Cutting

Protecting "the holy and the ivy" from careless or malicious gardeners of Christmas greenery has become increasingly efficient, Dr. Marion T. Hall, botanist at Cranbrook Institute of Science, has discovered.

Reports indicate that during the past six years the number of prosecutions for violation of Act 124 and its amendments has drastically decreased, while enforcing agencies have increased their activities. Act 124 forbids the removal of all species of trees, shrubs and woody vines, and various other plants from public or private lands without written permission of the owners.

The Michigan Bureau of Plant Industry alone checked over four million cut Christmas trees in 1952 and had to confiscate only 131 which had been illegally gathered. In 1946 over 1400 trees were confiscated. The confiscated trees are given to charitable organizations.

Although commercial gathering and shipment of Christmas greenery is now largely under control, there is still a considerable problem of wastage due to overcutting.

or the cutting of poor quality trees. There are often huge post-Yule surpluses which must be burned. The Bureau is urging growers to eliminate wastes by improving quality and increasing plantings with some system of gradation.

Other agencies assisting the Bureau in protecting State greenery include the Conservation Department, the State Police, County Sheriffs and local police authorities, who are primarily concerned with individuals who illegally gather greenery for their own homes.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY— EDWIN F. KIRKBERT, executive secretary of the Birmingham YMCA: "We can only hope that the Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund will favor our request for funds to construct a permanent Y building here. We believe that population growth of the large area served by the Birmingham branch demands larger quarters for our youth work."

Marine Comes Home

CHERRY POINT, N. C. (PHNC) — Returned to civilian life after two years of active duty in the Marine Corps is Marine Sgt. Joe O'Donnell, of 784 Lakeview. Sgt. O'Donnell has been serving as a radar operator with Marine Ground Control Intercept Squadron 6 at the Marine Corps Air Station here.



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GREETINGS

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Greetings

1953

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