

January A Good Time For Family Gardening

By Alice Wessels Burlingame

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

After the holidays is the time to enjoy the real comforts of home with the good lighting, modern heating, TV and an opportunity to get better acquainted with every member of the family.

Many households have children to be guided and this is your chance, while you have them confined with the weather, to interest them in plant material.

As an illustration, take a date pit and soak it for two days, then plant it in a small pot. The seed should be horizontal in the pot and not covered with more than half an inch of soil.

This rule is good for planting all seeds in pots. Cut a piece of newspaper the size of the top of the pot and place it on the soil, being sure that the top of the soil is a half inch below the rim of the pot.



Mrs. Burlingame says: "Don't give a new seedling fertilizer. It would be like giving a baby a pork chop."

After a plant has a normal array of leaves, then begin your program of feeding fertilizer every three weeks.

When you feed your plants you may use a "pill" which you place

on the top of the soil, away from the base of the plant, and just poke it down in the soil with your finger. The normal watering will dissolve the plant food.

As an alternative for a plant food there are several fine mixtures to choose from where you take a small portion of powder and mix it with a measured amount of water. Both methods are equally as good.

But let's get back to the small fry we are trying to interest in gardening.

GET SOME morning glory seeds. Have the child soak them in half a cup of water and the next day plant them about one fourth of an inch below the soil level. Then cover with a newspaper to fit the top of the pot and water to the top. This newspaper covering will aid the seeds in not being washed out.

Keep the morning glory seeds moist, and covered with the paper until the first sprout is visible. The morning glories will do best in a south or east window. It's fun to play a game and count the new flowers each morning after the annuals begin to climb up your window.

down. Use scotch tape to aid the ascent.

You will have fun starting grapefruit, lemon and orange seeds, too. These will require an overnight soaking to break the seed coat.

HAVE EVEN more fun and place apple seeds in a small enclosed container with moist peat moss. Now, place this in your refrigerator and put a label on the container with a date for two months hence. At that time take them out and plant them for a wee apple tree in the future.

Gardening is so much fun! It has years ahead for all of you filled and overflowing with adventures, new friends to meet and a path leading toward peace of mind for all.

Whenever you try any of these experimental ideas in horticulture, or even proceed with the usual culture of houseplants or gardening outdoors, remember it is the growing of more than you need and sharing with others that pays the big dividends.

Remember that January is the perfect month to grow your amaryllis bulbs which I have described in other issues. Also, why not start some glorioxia!

The glorioxia has a leaf about three times as large as an African violet. It has "hair" on the leaves, like this related plant, and has approximately the same culture as an African violet. The flowers are lush, velvety bells which are often as large as tulips.

START THE BULB this time of year. It is important to place it in a pot just a little larger than the tuber, shifting the latter as needed for a "comfortable fit."

This exotic plant should be fertilized once a week with a mild fertilizer, after it has a fine start. The soil should be moist but never wet. Plants should be in the light but away from the direct rays of the sun. They will do best if you set the pot in a saucer of pebbles and keep moist with standing water. After the flowering period, water should be withheld, the plant dried off for about eight weeks. Then, the growth performance begins again.

This is a good time to collect the stray flower pots. Place them in a bucket of water with a cup of washing bleach, then wash them out with a utility brush. An excellent job for the children who like to play in water.

The stack of clean pots will look very professional and you will be ready to execute any planting ideas.

December Construction Arthong Year's Lowest

Although December's building was fourth low of the year, its total of \$480,000 was still nearly eight times that of December 1951. During that month only eight permits were issued for buildings valued at \$57,650.

Last month's 31 permits included 24 new single family residences at \$344,200; five single family alterations at \$4,400; a new garage at \$1,500 and alterations on one business place at \$130,000.



EDWIN P. CRENSHAW



ALVIN S. McEVROY

GM Promotes Two Birmingham Men

The promotion of two Birmingham men was announced this week by Roger M. Kyes, vice president of General Motors and general manager of the truck and coach division.

Edwin E. Crenshaw of 732 Covington, will succeed H. E. Listman, retired, in the office of general sales manager.

Crenshaw, 59, has been with the coach division since 1926 when he was appointed sales representative in Chicago. In 1945 he became field sales manager for the southern region and in May 1948, was assigned as assistant general sales manager.

He will be succeeded in this office by Alvin S. McEvoy of 1060 Wembleton road, a member of the LMC staff since becoming a sales representative in the southern region in 1915.

McEvoy, prior to joining GM, was in the US Office of Defense Transportation, US Inter-State Commerce and the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Transportation company.

Mich. Bell Pays Tax; Schools Here To Get \$27,196

The Michigan Bell Telephone Co. again in 1952 was the largest single contributor to the state Primary School Fund with a payment totaling \$7,178,184.

According to figures released today by Walter D. Fauser, manager here for Michigan Bell, \$27,190 of

the total was allocated to the public school system of Birmingham.

Schools throughout Oakland County, including the city of Birmingham, received a total of \$509,752 from the company's tax payment.

FAUSER SAID the payments were based on a school census of 5,757 in Birmingham and 107,000 in Oakland County, as compiled by the state department of public instruction.

The company's tax payment this year, largest in its history, amounted to \$4.72 for each of the 1,619,514 youngsters in the state between the ages of 5 and 19 who are on the census rolls.

Michigan Bell, in common with railroads, Pullman, railway express, telegraph, and other telephone companies, pays a state property tax earmarked for the primary fund in lieu of other property taxes.

Manager to Report On Tree Removal

Removal of a tree that is a hazard when he uses his driveway has been requested of the city by W. B. Hanaghan, 340 W. Lincoln. City Manager D. C. Egbert has been asked by city commissioners to personally investigate the situation, and report in a report on it.

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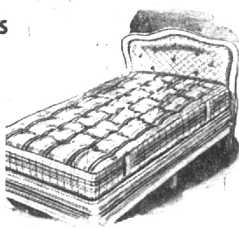
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