

Well-Planned Garden Frames House Beauty

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Spring is here, folks! Just jump in the car with me and let's visit interesting gardens every week.

"All out" . . . at the home of the Robert Vinton's on Bar-den road in Bloomfield Hills. The Vinton home is up on a hill, nestled in a former apple orchard. Apple trees are definitely the theme of the acreage.

A visitor parks his car in the guest space and walks through an open breezeway to an inner courtyard and their front yard. The front of the door to the home faces north.

What a wonderful selection of plant material for a north doorway! To the left is a star magnolia and to the right of the doorway is a nana yew flower bed limited by a justifying wire of the home is a bell or mertensia or Virginia bluebell, must for a Mrs. Burlingame garden with a shabby eye. Its leaves are large, a rich medium green, with early spring flowers, large blue bells with a tinge of pink at the base of the bell.

Under the front window there is a grating to provide light for a basement room and the designer used cotoneaster adpressa on each side of the grating, knowing that these small, shiny leaves would form a lace work over the grating to make it inconspicuous, but yet dense enough to eliminate the needed light.

The entire doorway area forms a court-like garden due to the "U" shape formed by a wing of the home and the garden wall. About 25 feet to the right and out from the front door is a picturesque old apple tree. As it was advisable to cut down the hill for this intimate garden the apple tree has a 20 foot circle around it built up as a rock garden wall.

On top of this elevated area around the apple tree are hundreds of squill blooming in the early spring. When their season is over the ivy remains its leaves and takes over.

As a boundary marker between the Vinton courtyard and the adjoining home there is an often brown stained fence of good architectural detail. Over it grows well selected climbing roses. I have seen sunk in the turf to accentuate different changes in elevation.

Wandering around the house to the south side which has a high elevation you will see a hedge of floribunda roses.

They peek into the window of living room and form a resistant array of color from the last of June until October.

Mrs. Vinton prefers the floribunda variety due to its great yield of flowers and says a garden of floribunda roses is easy to maintain.

At this south exposure they are on a crest of the hill. It is marked by a hedge of yew which will be clipped at three feet.

On one outside wall there was a meter concealed by a double

Mrs. Vinton had attached loops of aluminum foil where bulbs and tender evergreens tempt them. She reports her "acare" campaign works.

Your writer often goes into detail when reporting these visits so you may add to your knowledge of plant material.

After you have completed your plantings do not mulch the beds until July. Ohio State university has done considerable research on the merits of mulching and say that for the best results the mulch must be applied in the open until July 1. Later, before that date, I will write about summer mulching to hold moisture in the soil and to prevent weed growth.

This is the time to plant perennials to assure yourself of a constant show of color from early spring until frost. Plant them according to their elevation when in maturity.

If you have a new garden, plan on this flower bed being at least four feet deep away from the boundary shrubs. Don't plant anything within 12 to 18 inches of the base

Coronation Movies

Colored travelogue movies of England and Belgium will acquaint 100-1 members of the Birmingham YMCA this week with coronation plans and places of England's new Queen. The movies show many of the traditional places that thousands of Americans will visit this summer. The movie will be shown in all club gatherings.



Mrs. Burlingame

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- A. Tailored classic with nylon net at bodice and hemline. White, brown, black or navy; sizes 32 to 42. 4.95.
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LINGERIE—PARKING LEVEL

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BIRMINGHAM

Pretty Plot most intriguing NYLON shade of the season



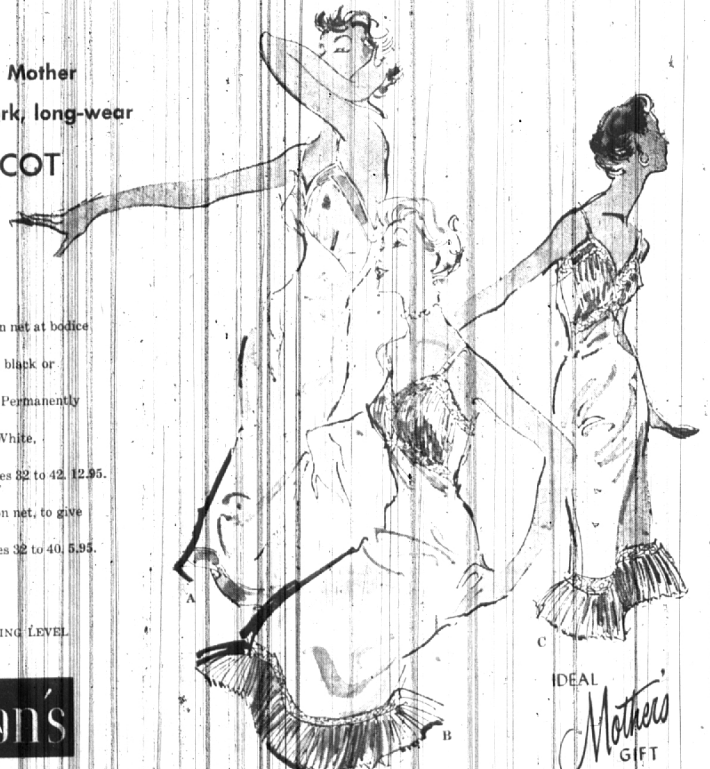
Visualize a slightly blushing beige . . . soft . . . yet suffused with an all-over pinkness. Sound lovely? It looks even lovelier! Perfect with your pink costumes, pink-and-grey coordinates. With your blue, blue-red or mauve costumes—a delicate skintint. And so right with white or white-background prints. Ask for "Pretty Plot" in your own . . . Belle Sharme Leg-size.



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