

Civitan Apple Sales Score Huge Success

They haven't officially counted the money yet, but members of the newly formed Civitan club report that their initial step in their first civic project has met with outstanding success.

The Civitans held an apple sale on Birmingham street corners Saturday for the purpose of raising money for an ambulance they plan to donate to the city. It is believed about \$400 will be netted from the sale.

Within two hours, 10 cases of apples were sold. Workers found two more cases, and they too vanished rapidly.

According to club members, the next project to collect money for the ambulance will be a turkey sale just before Christmas.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

MRS. PAUL AVERILL, publicity chairman, Birmingham Society of Women Painters: "Our new studio should certainly prove an inspiration for any artist. The beauty of the building and its surroundings, the quietness and peace that prevails, all blend to make a perfect setting for creative work of any kind. The marvelous scenery all around is probably will be the subject of many a painting during the summer months."

DOWN TO EARTH

D. R. Srigley Gives Rose Culture Tips

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Local garden lovers have been enjoying the Washington Hawthornes which flank the front of the post office.

It has a slender, pyramidal shape, with leaves that are sharply serrated. The fruit is brilliant, showy, and possesses a great quantity until late winter. It is very good material to be used as a hedge. The Robert Clark home on Willow Lane has a fine specimen.

The willows have given a long performance this fall, flaunting their yellow leaves. One has to be careful when planting this tree on a city lot because its roots undermine your property. This tree is for acreage.

The other day a garden lover gave me a strange type of willow, two and a half years old, it is seven feet high and if it grows like its "mother" it will be columnar, like a poplar.

The original is said to have been brought from France as a twig from a specimen around Napoleon's tomb. The leaves are very curly and are similar to rocky mountain sheep. (I looked up a picture of this animal with its curly horns.) I imagine it will never amount to much for me because I am always dividing my plant material for friends.

IF YOU MUST go in for willows, try one which is "fancy" such as *salix alba tristis*, the weeping golden willow with bright yellow twigs.

Not all willows "weep." The best type is the Wisconsin weeping willow. *Salix pentandra* is the laurel willow which has glossy foliage, dark green, elliptical leaves, is upright in growth and very good for a wind break or a tall hedge.

After the season is over it is always well to talk with experienced gardeners as they are chuck full of ideas for next year. So I visited D. E. Srigley, 601 Fairfax, one of the local master gardeners.

Roses are his favorites and vogue of the floribunda category gets a high rating while Helen Traubel and enchantment are the hybrids which are in the upper strata, "in his book."

HIS TREE ROSES have "gone to bed" for the winter. He made a trench 15 inches deep, placed 6 inches of leaves in the bottom "as packing."

Next the roses were laid in a horizontal manner with bare roots and with the leaves off the branches. Now 6 inches of leaves cover the "lying down" tree rose.

Copper wire is placed on top of the leaves to protect the tender twigs when removed. Dirt goes on top of the wire. On March 1 the tree roses will be taken up and started in the garage in tar paper pots. Around May 1 they will be placed in the rose bed.

Srigley feels that all cases of rose black spot could be traced to overhead watering rather than using a soaker. After every rain he sprays his roses with an insecticide.

This next spring Srigley will have 150 more roses. In the fall he cuts his roses back to 15-18 inches. He hills the soil up around them, and places 18 inch chicken wire in a circle around them and fills in the circle with marsh hay. This hay is high in nitrogen and he feels that with snow and rain this nitrogen will leach out of the grass and benefit the roses.

GREY PEARL, lavender pinocchio are the grey roses which he has that give a splendor of their own.

Srigley has some dwarf Swiss roses but feels that due to their size they become lost in a rose bed. He is disappointed in the performance of the Chrysler imperial rose. Independence is a cherry red floribunda rose which was in flower all summer. This year this rose lover plans to have his background for his roses a mass of everblooming climbers. Recently he removed his shrubs to carry out this new program.

The diamond jubilee is a rose which has lots of white in the leaf, very unusual.

When he prepares a rose bed he digs down 15 inches and first places a layer of sand and gravel,

then a layer of black loam and peat moss, ending up with compost.

HE HAS "PLANTED" 10,000 earthworms which aerate the soil and commercial fertilizers would kill the earthworms.

Srigley is a loyal organic gardener like Louis Bronsfield who spoke here a couple years ago. "These gentlemen feel that they are building "up" the soil, less bugs affect the plants, less watering is necessary. Commercial fertilizers have to be applied each year to benefit the plants."


The compost pile which he makes now can be ready next April to spread around and benefit the soil. "I am just putting back into the soil what has been taken out."

The majority of the compost pile will be made up of old leaves and tops of annuals.

AROUND EVERY flower bed this gardener has cement blocks which are white. By using them there isn't any clipping to be done, the grass stays within bounds and modern cutting machinery can be employed to save time and labor.

Peonies come second for Mr. Srigley's garden interest, and collector's items greet the fancier. This magnificent garden is being kept as a memorial to the friend of many, Marion Srigley, and garden lovers are always welcome, by the host, to come and study the performance of their favorite flowers.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.




THANKSGIVING

More than ever, WE AMERICANS should be in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Our Pilgrim Fathers were grateful and gave thanks for their survival and freedom.

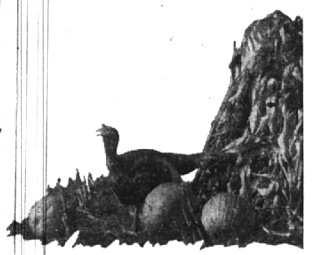
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Let Us Bow Our Heads in THANKS...

Today, in the spirit of the first Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to the Creator for all the blessings we have received . . . both as individuals and as Americans . . . a free people, living without fear in a free country. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, let us humbly acknowledge our debt to Divine Providence for all that we are and may hope to become. Like them, let us bow our heads in a prayer of gratitude to the Giver of "every good and perfect gift."

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