

**PLAY IT SAFE!**

**Preventing Fires Is No One-Man Job**

Fire Prevention Week this year is being observed the week of Oct. 4-10. Its purpose is to direct public attention to the tremendous loss of life and property that results each year from fire, and to emphasize the safety measures which can substantially reduce these losses.

President Eisenhower, in his proclamation setting aside this one week of the year to this national effort, has pointed out that safety to life and property is the responsibility of each of us working together the year 'round in the community and in the nation.

MOST OF THE service clubs in the City of Birmingham, the public and parochial schools, other

public spirited citizens and your fire department, have all joined together this year to sponsor a campaign against fire.

This program will be carried on in the schools and in the business area of the city. The success of the program is entirely in our hands, yours and mine. By assuming our share of this responsibility, each of us can help make not only Birmingham, but America, safe from fire.

**YOU DO NOT** have to be an engineer or a fire prevention expert to prevent fires.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters points out that 90 per cent of all fires are caused by "carelessness."

The solution therefore is simple if we are all careful. Just stop and think for a few seconds: Is your home safe from fire?

**PLAY IT SAFE!** There is a fire starting in the United States every 32 seconds. The next one could be your own.

Prepared as a special public service by the members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

**DOWN TO EARTH**

**Well Fed Lawns Will Overcome Crab Grass**

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The crab grass situation in so many lawns is always the subject of conversation when gardeners get together.

During the season I have introduced you to many blue ribbon local gardeners and they align themselves on one of two possible teams.

They either fight crab grass with the new sprays or belong to the team of fervently believe that the way to control this annual is to use an abundance of fertilizer to assure a good stand of grass.

They know that crab grass needs "sun to germinate, but the turf is thick, sun can't get the soil. Or worse the lawn should be cut Mrs. Burlingame no shorter than two inches.

By observation I would say that the members of the last "team" have the best looking lawns, and in the end spend less money on the project. A home with a good lawn surely has an increased market value.

The C. E. Nichols at 938 Westchesterway have done a job tussling with a shady problem as their property is really "in the woods."

**BOTH** The construction of the home as well as the garden has been done by this husband and wife team and the casual remark of a passer-by could be, "This home has been put together by loving hands."

They went up to West Branch and brought back a trailer loads of split rail fencing which had been discarded by a farmer. Across the front of their ranch home as well as around the back boundaries this split rail fence has been reset. It now has a satiny, grey color with age.

In the back of the home they have constructed a terrace 12 by 30 feet. The flower beds have a great show of spring bulbs which like their setting before. As they come out, Yews are the evergreens which take so much shade the best. Tuberos rooted begonias, lilies and phlox are present where the sun comes through for a short time giving a lacy effect.

In a few places they have used eunonymus alatus, the five foot shrub which will be fiery red in the fall for accent. It has to have only half shade.

**ALONG THE SOUTH** boundary of the home where they do have some sun they had a hedge of blue spirea, about three feet high, which blooms in late summer. As it is not dense and would fit in well with a perennial border they plan to move its location. Gardeners take note of this plant material for cutting and it would surely be a fine specimen for drying.

Plantain lilies with their smooth leaves and flowers in late summer can be the backbone of a shady garden.

The possessor of a shady garden does not have an easy garden to plan. If you satisfy your whims of plant associated with your memories of the past you may be wasting your money as the old adage still holds. "The right plant in the right place always prospers."

To me each garden has a character, just like friends. Every time I have passed 1019 Fairway this summer I have chuckled a bit as it was apparent that these gardeners enjoyed their garden to the utmost and loved to play with the colors you get from annuals.

**HERE IN THIS** Fairway home are two generations sharing a home and many hobbies and known as the "Zahn-Thorp team."

Dad specializes in developing a fine lawn while Mrs. Zahn, the daughter, keeps him company as the flower grower.

The home is over three years old. It was white painted brick but due to the glare was painted grey. This is an important note as plants are often burned and dowered due to reflection from a white wall.

They constructed a 18 by 14 foot terrace and have painted it with rubber base paint. The metal chairs have small sections of rubber hose where their base would scratch the terrace paint.

At one end of this cement terrace they built a wall two and a half cement blocks high. It is definitely an asset to the terrace design.

**THEY HAD HEARD** that rabbits like roses for winter nibbling and so constructed a four foot screening which not only protected the roses but held the leaves as a mulch. Imagine their surprise this spring to discover a nest of rabbits enjoying safe winter quarters.

The best time to construct winter mulch is at Thanksgiving time, often the rodents have moved on by that time.

Red, Richard geraniums mark the entrance to the garden. They can withstand hot weather and give you the most flowers if you do one thing for them—give them full sun.

Annuals, annuals everywhere.

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MARINE PVT. 1st CLASS Lawrence L. Protasiewicz, 5110 Daniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Protasiewicz, 5110 Daniel, Troy township, recently arrived at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to undergo four weeks of intensive advanced combat training. Pvt. Protasiewicz enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 24 this year.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So remember, if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise it in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

**'Sheffield Area Streets Need Repairs'—Egbert**

Birmingham City Manager Donald C. Egbert has been handed the task of finding out what residents in the Sheffield Estates subdivision wish to do about the condition of their streets.

He was asked to do this after he told the commission that the condition of the streets in this subdivision had deteriorated to the extent that something must be done.

He outlined three possibilities for rehabilitating the streets:

- 1) The city could patch up the streets, in their present condition, at an estimated \$5,000 cost.
- 2) Put on asphaltic topping as a temporary measure at a cost of \$30,000; or
- 3) Make a permanent improvement with concrete paving at a cost of \$150,000.

to the home owner, and if it would be assessable, would it have to be deducted from a later permanent street building program.

City Attorney Forbes Hascall was directed to study this question and give an opinion to the commission at a later date.

**EGBERT ESTIMATED** that a temporary rebuilding program would result in the city's ability to maintain the streets in good condition for more than ten years.

The commission postponed action on the matter to allow Egbert to go to the subdivision association to present the city's problem and to find out what the home owners of the area believe should be done.

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