

DOWN TO EARTH

Wise Gardeners Allot Space for Vegetables

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many of our local gardeners make it a point to have a portion of their gardens dedicated to vegetables. This week we had a cabbage from the B. R. MacDonald's on Pleasant, that surprised any I have ever tasted before. It had crinkly leaves, a fine and "different" taste and has a good growing history. So, vegetable growers, plan to try your vanguard cabbage for 1954.

By the grapevine I have heard that the perennials and the annuals in this column have become the Saturday chores for many husbands. They will like this next tommor.

After the killing frost I believe that many of the perennials and annuals which have been killed should be left in the ground until spring.

This is the reason. If you leave these "traps" protruding from the ground they will catch the leaves and form of mulch, winter protection to the plant, especially roses.

The annual frozen stalks will catch leaves which can be incorporated into the soil. They will also catch snow and help form drifts which are nature's blankets for your choice plants.

THE CPA WHO always has the most orderly garden in the fall is often the first in the spring to complain about winter loss of his roses and perennials.

There are two shrubs which you will want to request on a plan "as the icing on the cake." If you have a nest settling develop and perhaps on an established property you will want to find a choice plant for these two prizes.

Cornus or cornelian cherry is a tree-like dogwood which should be placed alone as a specimen. It will grow 20 feet high in full sun and allow 15 feet for the diameter. In March it has a mass of yellow flowers, note the early month. The fruits are like small plums, sweet, produced in clusters.

Cornus Kousa or Kousa dogwood is the second choice plant you might like to grow around to locate. It prefers to be moved in the spring.

IT IS A COMPACT bushy tree and will grow about 15 feet high. The feature of this plant is that it flowers the middle of June when people are ready for the second time to admire exotic flowering shrubs.

This dogwood has four large chalk white bracts (petals). They are square at the tips so that the entire flower looks like a large white square. The fruits are pinkish and nearly an inch in diameter. This shrub is colored next to a natural brick colored background or as a specimen of your front lawn.

May I introduce another husband and wife garden team to enjoy their garden as part of the design for living? Mr. and Mrs. Paul

Wagner plan to try at 1888 Northlawn, across from the Birmingham Golf Club.

Their's is a ranch home of natural brick with white trim. The garage adjoins the home and to the side of the garage is an Australian pine which gives a good balance for the home.

THERE ARE many bay windows and in front of them is a huge semi-circle of sabina junipers (the great American). These windows face south assuring a good growth of the evergreens and, seems to me, the deep painting would give window protection at night.

Around the doorway and along the remainder of the front of the home there are columnar cedars, yews, coto-nestans, with white drift petals and plants with the white trim on the house.

Light blue spruces are used on the front lawn, one each side of the house, to frame the setting of the street. They are about 30 feet from the structure.

There, on the front lawn, was the "peach tree" which has had haven peach tree had just delivered to the family four bushels of fine fruit.

On the side of the garage, facing the west, is an exotic passion vine. It has few people possess these prizes. They must have winter protection to carry over and do not lose their life until around June first.

THE FLOWERS are orchid in color, with the petals resembling a multitude of hairs. When you are introduced to this vine in flower the usual reaction is just "Oh! You cannot describe its beauty. My vine flowered for two months this afternoon."

The Wagner's enjoy lilies and have a lovely basic perennial bed. This year they tried tigridia lilies and as Mrs. Wagner said, "They are exotic but closed early in the afternoon."

To one side of the back garden area is an enclosure 15 feet by 10 feet. They have their log and have a nursery for fine seedlings.

ALONG THEIR back property boundary they are gradually replacing their shrubs with evergreens.

Wagner has beautiful turf in their yard. This was due to their plentiful abundance of fertilizer, now high and incorporate some bent grass seed. I did not see any crabgrass.

To relieve the monotony of the perennial bed they had placed pink goods and flowering crab-trees. Analyze your own perennial bed. Doesn't it need an ornamental tree to give vertical interest.

Next year Mrs. Wagner plans on growing fennel and chili, basil, parsley and chives because this year she discovered that delicate amount of these herbs make an interesting tossed salad.

There you have the keynote why gardeners always have a sparkle in their eye and a snap to their step.

There is always a grand to-morrow awaiting your plans when gardening is your hobby.

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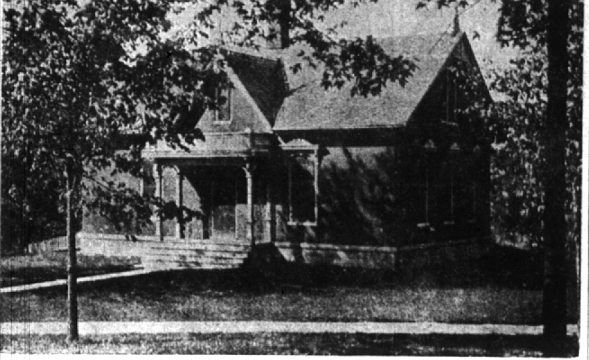
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The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture



VILLAGE OF BIRMINGHAM'S SCHOOL OF 1855
Photo from the collection of the late J. Bert Peabody

Lovely Residence Replaced Village's 1st Schoolhouse

This is a story of a plot of land, the buildings on it and the people associated with this bit of Birmingham history. Situated on one of the city's most beautiful sites overlooking the River Rouge valley, stands the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allen, 556 W. Maple.

The location is an old and interesting one as far as the city's history is concerned—for in 1855, it was here that the first red brick schoolhouse in Birmingham was built.

The dog was carted back to the Peabody home (where the Christian Science church now stands on the corner of Willets and Chester) in a wheelbarrow. Mr. Randall only meant to chase the dog off the grounds, but Rover got in and was raising quite a rumpus with the deer.

down. Birmingham lads still are getting into the grounds.

Mr. Randall had difficulty with dogs chasing his deer, too. On one occasion, Lyman B. Peabody's dog got in and was raising quite a rumpus with the deer.

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While the Peabody dog recovered from the effects of his visit, there is no further evidence that he revisited Randall's park.

In 1850, a young man named Warren D. Clizbe came to Birmingham from Quincy, Mich., to be superintendent of the Birmingham school.

HE BOARDED and roomed with Lyman B. Peabody, a school board member, around the corner of the block from the Randall property. (Clizbe often passed the pleasant little home of Horace Randall. That, he decided, was where he would like to live some day.)

W. D. Clizbe fell in love with one of his teachers—young Nellie Richardson who taught the second primary grade. In fact, pretty Nellie Richardson, daughter of Freeman Richardson, village blacksmith, had caught his eye from the very first school teacher's meeting that Clizbe had called.

Before W. D. Clizbe left Birmingham (1882) to be superintendent of the school at Alpena, Mich., he and Nellie were married.

AFTER FIVE YEARS as head of the Lapeer school, he went to Ionia, Mich., where he remained for five years as superintendent. In 1892, the Clizbes with their daughter Marion, (now Mrs. Harry Allen) came back to Birmingham to live.

Clizbe entered into the real estate and insurance business in Birmingham. While his original desire to own the Randall property was not forgotten, the opportunity for his acquiring it was not yet at hand.

In the meantime, Horace Randall's two sons, Bruce and Tracy, had grown to manhood. His wife, Julia Hunt Randall, had died and Horace, remarried, was living in Detroit.

ABOUT 1899, the old homestead was sold to A. P. Jacobs, an at-

torney, who in turn sold it to Clizbe about 1912. It remained the Clizbe home for many years.

W. D. Clizbe served Birmingham long and well. He served on the board of education and as mayor of the Village (1917, 1920, 1921). Nellie Richardson Clizbe was very active in the Presbyterian church and a women's group in the church was named the Nellie Clizbe Guild in her honor.

When the property came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allen, a general remodeling of the old homestead was planned. Buildings in 1855 did not have basements, but during the ensuing years a small section underneath the back of the house, just large enough for the installation of a furnace, had been excavated.

THE ALLENS desired a full basement so the old brick walls were "shored up" and a workman with a team of horses began moving the dirt, sand and gravel in preparation for the basement that was to be.

It was a hot day and as the horses were dragging out one particular load of dirt, the workman went along with it, thinking, perhaps, to sit under a shady tree and cool off a bit before going back to his labors.

It was the wisest decision he ever made, for no sooner than he emerged from the excavation than the entire east brick wall came plunging down, missing him by inches.

FURTHER REMODELING plans were abandoned after this, and the Allens built the lovely home which now stands on the premises.

Mrs. Allen, who dearly loved the old homestead, had the bricks saved and cleaned. They were used in the chimney and the front of the present home.

According to Mr. Allen's father, John Allen, the bricks for the original school house were made in Birmingham at a forgotten brick yard near Maple and Worth streets. After being formed, they were laid out in the sun to dry. Mrs. Allen has saved a few of the bricks which show the tracks of a turkey and a dog who had walked on the bricks before they had dried.

MRS. ALLEN also has saved as mementos some of the wooden pegs which were used in the roof of the old schoolhouse—hand carved oakens pegs about a foot long.

Almost a hundred years have passed since romping school children's feet outside the red brick school house. The school house and the pleasant old home are now gone, but the lovely vista of the River Rouge, winding its lazy way through the valley, remains for present day visitors to see.

CAR Generator Keeps Man Alive During Transfer

The versatility of the portable gas-driven generator owned by the Catalpa Amateur Radio society was put to a test on Oct. 2 and 3.

Purchased through supplying power for the Civil Defense radio station WSHLD, the generator supplied power to keep a polo patient alive during the transfer from Oakland County Contagious Hospital to the new Sister Kenny center at Farmington Children's hospital.

Three children were being transferred that day, with one able to be put on an iron lung for periods of not more than 60 seconds long. The group learned of the situation and offered the generator.

THE MACHINE was mounted on the tailgate of a moving van, and with Arthur Badger of Royal Oak, a CAR member, handling operations, kept the iron lung functioning during the trip. The 24-year-old Royal Oaker made the trip without incident.

Although the two other patients, a six-year-old boy from Clarkston and a 12-year-old from Waterford township did not need the emergency power, it was pointed out that the generator could have kept both lungs operating simultaneously.

"WE BOUGHT the generator, which has been stored in the basement of St. James Episcopal church, to keep radio service and communications open in case of a power failure during a community-wide disaster," a spokesman said.

"At no time have we ever suspected that it would be put to use like this has just had. We all are

Program Director Lists Three Fall Attractions

Clifford Wright, program director for the Birmingham Kiwanis club, will present Vernon Dameron, director of education at Ford museum and Greenfield Village at the Nov. 10 meeting. Dameron will show pictures of the Village and speak on its development and present position.

Other speakers tentatively scheduled for the fall are More Neff, writer of the Michigan Outdoors column known through newspapers, radio and television. Anita Grant, known to listeners as "Uncle Dudley" and Andy Plamer of the Military Inn are also scheduled.

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THE PICKET FENCE has long since gone, but visitors to the Allen property today will find the fence on the Willets side broken