

Raising Sun Flowers Serves Dual Purpose

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Recently visited Mrs. M. C. Baird, 31619 Auburn and saw her 11-foot sun flower which had over 36 flowers on it. According to her husband the sun flower show could have been called "Blue Bird Heaven."

Here is an idea for a mother of small children. If you want to develop an interest in the garden have your child plant some sun flower seeds next year. The growth of the sunflowers will be fast enough to satisfy them and will call the birds to begin a program of bird interest to carry you through the winter. We are always envious of adults who have basic interest in plants and birds, often this knowledge can be traced to a program begun by a mother or a Scout leader in the past.



Mrs. Burlingame

MRS. J. C. COX of Royal Oak had done an outstanding job in this area in the preparation and arrangement of dried plant materials for most artistic arrangements. They are the ideal answer for the fall table which is always a problem child for house plants. Here are some hints which you might like to try: Lily of the valley leaves dry to a handsome yellow color.

Golden rod dries nicely to provide a rich butter yellow. Blue salvia, Queen Anne's Lace, delphinium, and statice are other types of plant material which dry well. Cat tails are selected for vertical line and should be taken before they are too mature.

"Winter Bouquets with Color", by Ruth Gannon is one of the fine books in our Baldwin library which is ready to guide you in this little-used art.

THIS IS THE time of year to feed your lily of the valley. Be sure and use a non-burning type of fertilizer.

After the leaves fall from your wisterias be sure and give it a heavy feeding.

Come with me to the southern colonial home of the John W. Fitzgeralds at 1818 Lythburn and enjoy this yard which has been planned and developed by a young couple who "just love gardening."

The home is on a corner lot and off to the left of the front of the structure is a yellow willow which will balance the lines of the garage on the right side of the home.

In front of the white garage is a hedge of cotoneaster divaricata which gives a texture interest with its small shiny leaf.

DOGWOOD, both white and pink, were used in a border planting for screening. They have a potential of 20 feet and can give density at the four foot level.

In front of the dogwoods are peonies, planted last fall. They flowered in abundance this season which would indicate that they are planted in full sun. The crown isn't over one to two inches below the surface.

October is the best month to divide your peonies but don't make your divisions too small.

The Fitzgeralds have a farm fence which marks off a portion of their property. An attractive picture has been created along the horizontal white boards by making a grouping with a pink tree peony, with pink tulips and forget-me-nots in the primary border.

THIS FAMILY is the proud possessor of a large recreation terrace 22 by 18 feet in size. A grill is located along one border. It was made by placing cement blocks in sand. They tried to grow grass between the blocks and finally gave up and put cement between the blocks.

The home is white and I liked

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Against a large area of the back of the home Fitzgerald planted pink clematis, and what a show they give with an abundance of bloom and an average height of about five feet.

Along the back of the property and adjoining a sidewalk, they have several Zabelii honeysuckle which have bright red flowers and are among the choicest shrubs of this variety.

TO SAVE summer maintenance the Fitzgeralds had used buck-wheat hulls instead of peat moss as a mulch and are very enthusiastic about this type of material.

Mrs. J. C. Roberts, 480 Yarmouth, state president for the National Farm and Garden association, has a garden equal to its mistress' title.

The work in this lovely garden is done by Mrs. Roberts and upon quizzing as to her "garden hours" she told me, "I take my husband to the eight o'clock train and come back for two hour's work in the garden before tackling home and social responsibilities."

Gold is the theme color in her living room and outside in the semi-circular garden to be viewed from the picture window you see a great show of tetra snapdragons which will bloom until November according to their breeding back-ground. (Gardeners take note.)

SALMON-PINK and yellow azaleas make frank the base of the picture window just visible above the window ledge.

To prepare this acid bed four feet of clay were removed and replaced with a mixture of peat moss, sand, leaf mold and a green-leaf compound.

An exquisite flower arrangement made of snow white Michigan Dahlias was in the living room. Make this variety a "must" on your future list.

Roses are the specialty of Mrs. Roberts. One rose crescent-shaped bed near the driveway had 12 summer snow herbendas in it. In all there are 250 roses here to care for. Against the white garage they have three climbing peae roses with a hedge of new dawn

roses of coral coloring in front of the climbers.

AT THE FRONT of this beautiful home with its southern wrought iron balcony you can see two treasures in the field of horticulture.

Firethorn with its shiny, evergreen leaves forms an accent near the door, and there is promise of large clusters of red berries to give a real accent to the white brick.

The second treasure is a climbing hydrangea. It doesn't need support for climbing as it has tentacles for this purpose and this time of year you are impressed with the dark green, well spaced leaves.

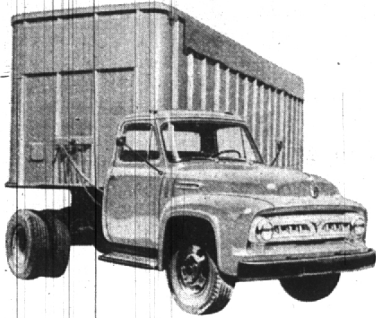
Rare Fern Found Near Trout Lake

One of the rarest of American plants, the Hart's-Tongue Fern, has been discovered this summer in Michigan for the first time by Dr. Marion T. Hall, Cranbrook Institute of Science botanist, and Dale J. Hagnah, research associate of the Institute.

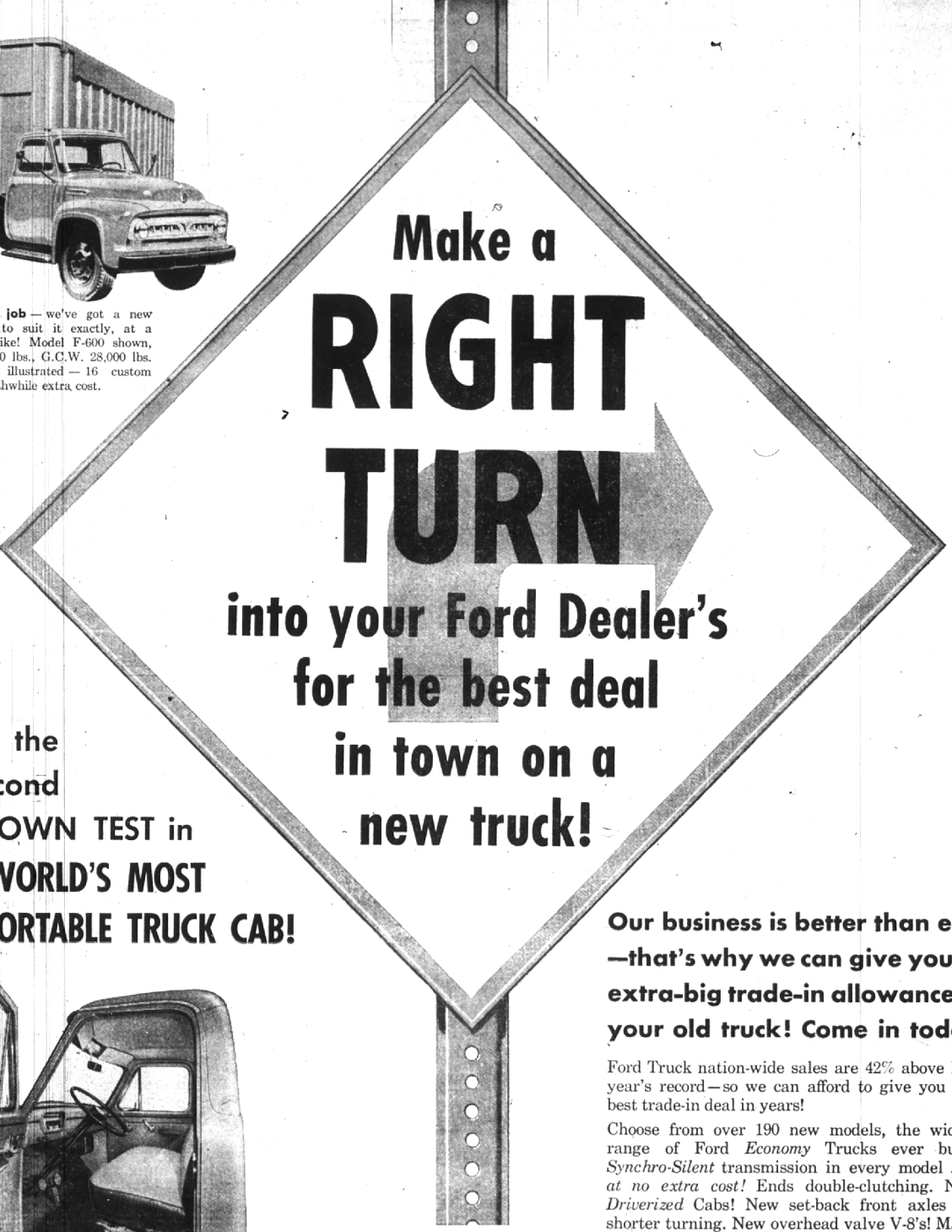
The new location, near Trout Lake in Calhoun County, is the western-most known in the United States, and is 200 miles from the nearest previously known locality on Bruce Peninsula, Ontario. Eight plants were found growing along a ledge of dolomitic rock.

Cecil Billington considered the possibility of including some mention of the Hart's-Tongue when preparing the manuscript for his book "Ferns of Michigan," published by Cranbrook Institute of Science, but refrained from doing so because no definite evidence of its existence had been found at that time.

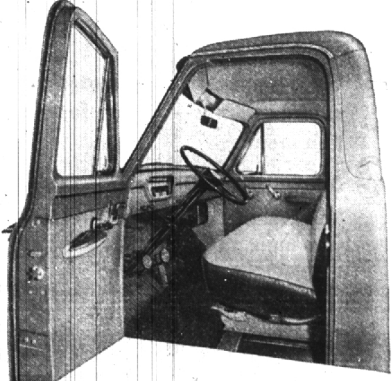
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