

It's an Ideal Time For Planting Pansies

By ALICE WESELLES BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This is pansy time.

Everybody is tempted with the arrival of spring to buy boxes of pansies. As most plants have spent the entire winter in the open field they can be transplanted anytime you wish for the early spark in your garden.

The grower started his seed bed of pansies the last of July or early August. They are biannuals taking more than one season to become fully mature.

Plan to place them convenient to an exit of your home or path frequently used as their "good behavior" is dependent upon removal of the dead flowers. If you have to walk across a lawn to reach them the job will not be so well covered as though you have only to lean over and care for them as you pass by.

IF RABBITS like your pansies, a pink in cloth moth balls in the flower bed.

After planting your pansies, I would put peat moss on the surface to prevent drying out.

Mrs. Henry Beant on Larchlea depends on two plain colors of pansies, placed a measured distance apart, to give a striking, very long primary border in front

of one of her choice perennial beds. Those who like to explore the country side for plants, will enjoy going to the pansy farms in Maconob county.

A WORD OF caution is in order at this time to warn owners of homes not to plant too many trees on their property. They have a way of growing large and before you know it your garden program will call for ground covers and shade loving plants material as the sun lovers are squeezed out of the picture.

On that new property do consider at least a couple of fruit trees. Be sure and buy two year old trees.

Maybe you will want a conversational piece of five kinds of apples on one tree. A small space will be adequate but of course you will want to plant the tree in full sun. There is no pollination problem, so one tree will be sufficient.

PEACHES have a way of becoming important members of the winter yarder so one of the Haven very long primary border in front

strain of peaches is a good buy. Be sure all fruit trees have a full sun location, at least 15 feet from another tree or even a garage. Some young people have placed a fence around their property to keep children within bounds. They may wish to plant grapes along the fence in full sun to afford them "quick" privacy.

The plants should be placed at least three feet from the fence as they will not grow with the fence as support but on wires which you will place parallel with the fence inside.

You can put them six to ten feet apart. Not very much fertilizer is needed and an excess will cut down the fruit production. Vines should be sprayed before and after the blossoms appear, when the fruit is the size of a pea, and when the grapes ripen.

THERE IS a perennial we should see in more gardens, astilbe. They are long lived and have feathery spikes. You may elect white, pale pink, crimson, reddish purple or salmon colors. They will give you a good two to five foot accent and you will be pleased with the foliage. Sun or part shade will please this plant with a rich moist soil. It does not like a dry location. Three years or more will last it every year.

A love of gardening assures the traveler of extra dividends while on a vacation, my husband and I used superlatives as we went through the Ardastra Botanical Gardens in Nassau.

This six acre plot was developed by Headley Edwards, a Bahaman, who studied botany at high school in Jamaica. For the last 30 years he has been collecting, planting and bringing to reality this paradise spot.

His keen knowledge, enthusiasm and gracious hospitality reminded us very much of the stories we had read of George Washington Carver. The entire six acres was aglow with color.

The datura, seen in northern greenhouses, was very much at home with its huge white trumpets.

WE WERE fortunate to arrive when the century plant was in flower. Each plant flowers once in 26 years, then dies.

The spike-like leaves come out of a core about five feet high and in the center will grow the flower stem 25 feet high.

When the buds unfold, they open into clusters of yellow flowers. Upon the completion of this cycle the plant dies leaving the curator to hope some seeds have "caught" on the ground around it.

The traveler's palm is lovely with its fronds in position like the figure in a hat and in a horizontal position. Edwards showed how he slit the palm and cut out a tube about a cup of water. It is stored after a rain in the tubes of the fronds.

EDWARDS walked from one exotic plant to another, telling facts of the introduction of this or that plant from its place in the world's geography.

There were ducks and colorful birds chatting to him from the tropical pool with its unusual plant border. Further on a bevy of peacocks "chatted" with our host and we took time out to see them do a dance for our benefit.

The Ardastra Gardens are definitely one of the highlights for visitors to enjoy on a trip to Nassau.

Family Favorites Casseroles Take the Spotlight

Mrs. Bronson Brant, 836 Washington road, has no pet casserole dishes that she has served for many an occasion; and since we couldn't decide which to use, we are solving the problem by printing both!



MRS. BRONSON BRANT

One, the Shrimp-Macaroni recipe, appeared in the First Presbyterian Church cook book, printed 1952. Because that cook book has long been unavailable (its demand was terrific and soon exhausted the print run) we wanted to share Mrs. Brant's recipe with other Birmingham cooks.

Louise Brant has been an active worker in the Presbyterian church for the past 14 years. Her ability as an "organizer" and getting things done in a business-like manner is recognized by other women in her church group. They also acclaim Louise Brant's ability as a fine cook.

Besides being a charter member of the Susan Trumbull Guild and a member of the Nellie Clibb Guild, Mrs. Brant is a member of the Garden Club and enjoys working in her garden.

Her greatest hobby, however, is collecting antique glass. She has a large collection of old glass in the "King's Crown" pattern as well as a fine collection of antique milk glass.

SHRIMP CASSEROLE

Boil, cool, drain and rinse 1/2 cup shell macaroni. Make white sauce of 4 tablespoons butter, 4 tablespoons flour, 1/2 cup milk and flavor with minced onion. Add 1 cup grated cheese and salt and pepper to taste.

Add macaroni, 2 cups fresh shrimp, 1 cup crabmeat and 1 cup peas. (Mrs. Brant uses frozen peas.) Put in buttered casserole dish or sea shells and cover with buttered crumbs. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees. This recipe makes 10 shells.

CHIPPED BEEF AND MUSHROOM CASSEROLE

Simmer 1/2 pound of fresh mushrooms in 3 tablespoons of butter for 5 minutes.

To make a white sauce, melt 3 tablespoons butter, add 3 tablespoons flour and stir until smooth. Add 2 1/2 cups milk gradually and stir over low heat until thick and smooth. Add 1 cup grated American cheese and stir until melted.

To the white sauce mixture add the simmered mushrooms, 3 tablespoons chopped pimento, 1/2 pound chipped dried beef, 1/2 pound cooked egg noodles, salt and pepper to taste.

Pour into buttered casserole dish and sprinkle top with 1 cup of buttered bread crumbs. (Mrs. Brant uses about 2 tablespoons of butter for the bread crumbs because she likes them real buttery.) Bake casserole in moderate oven 375 degrees, 20-30 minutes until brown on top. Recipe serves 8 people.

Editor's note: If you have a recipe you would like to share with other readers, we urge you to send it to the Society Editor of The Eccentric. Or at a friend's home you may have enjoyed a special dish and believe it should be featured in this column. If so, let us know the cook's name and we will contact her (or him).

Honor Students Honor Dean's List

Birmingham students have been named to the dean's scholastic honor roll at five colleges.

They are Bob Selvidge, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Selvidge, 3821 West Maple, Kemper Military school, Boonville, Mo.; Charlotte Mary Schwimmer, 651 Bates street, Ohio university, Athens, O.; and Alan G. Crooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Crooks, 2220 Buckingham road, a pre-junior in the college of Applied Arts at the University of Cincinnati.

Richard Wagner has been listed on the honor roll for the winter quarter at Tri-State college, Angola, Ind., with a scholastic record of all A's and B's. Enrolled in the department of road engineering, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wagner of Ridgedale, George E. Vaillant of Bloomfield Hills and James L. Pratt 16162 Wetherby road, both juniors, were named from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

Entertain Guests After Indies Trip

A three-weeks cruise on the SS Amsterdam has ended for Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Elms who have returned to their home at 379 Tibury. Their trip included nine ports of call in the West Indies and a visit with friends at Puerto Rico.

They are currently entertaining their son, Corp. Mason Gale Elms and his wife, here for nine days from Ft. Knox, Ky.

Have You Met...

John and Margaret Stephanian, 31220 East Rutland, and children, Patricia, Robert and Michael? Stephanian is a salesman for Ray North, Ford Dealers, and is affiliated with Eho Mu Nu. His wife is club historian for the Armenian American Vet's Auxiliary in Detroit.

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Blessed is sales engineer for Keller Tool company. His wife is affiliated with Alpha Phi and he is a member of Alpha Sigma Phi and Phi Gamma Delta and a Denison University Katherine, age 3, 692 Woodlawn, alumni.

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