

Library to Close Summer Book Plan At Aug. 30 Party

The "Forest Rangers" a group of about 200 youngsters taking part in Baldwin library's summer reading program, will meet on

Aug. 30, from 2 to 4 p.m., to close their season with a program and entertainment. Miss Kathleen Pickett, children's librarian, will be in charge. She has been assisted by three youngsters, Charles Brownell, James Parry and Edward Jesse, in planning the affair. The committee has designed a special game and will supplement the program with movies and the presentation of "trees" and certificates.

THERE HAVE been a great many books read this summer. Miss Pickett remarked, "Some of the children will give brief reports on their favorite books." "The trees" will be models to represent the books read. The more limbs, the more limbs and leaves in the tree. Youngsters who have joined toward the end of the program will not have read enough to earn a tree, but some of the early starters' trees are pretty fancy affairs."

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DOWN TO EARTH

Plants Should Accent, Not Bury, A Home

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many folk have discovered that Oriental poppies give a fine early summer accent to their gardens. In August they should be propagated as the old foliage has died down. These perennials have a long tap root like a carrot. Dig up your plant and cut the root into three inch lengths. Now each section can be planted upright and place three inches of soil over it. Their location should be in full sun.

One of our readers has pointed out a very important item for all to keep in the records for your home. Make a list of the money you invest for grass seed, fertilizer, shrubs, trees, fences and terraces so that it can be used as data when you sell your home and have to consider the capital gains in the transaction. A day book is an excellent way to keep this information in an official manner. The cost of annual records is not an item acceptable in this tax record.

The swapping of plants is a hobby of many. Mrs. Burlingame holds an interest in all gardeners. In 1734 there lived in Philadelphia one John Bertram who was one of the most outstanding pioneers in bringing plants from England. His buddy was Peter Collinson and they were busy sending their choice finds back and forth.

AS WE are entering the period when the China aster gives its early fall show, these cronies have the credit for introducing them to America. In his records, John Bertram stressed the importance of shipping them during the winter months when the seeds were dormant due to cold temperatures, and that they should be kept in a dark place during the shipping interim for best results. Those China asters, which were sent to us from England, were sent there originally by the Jesuits from China to France.

Recently while visiting the American Roses society garden in Columbus, Ohio, I saw a scotch shrub rose called "rosa rubrifolia." It has bluish-green foliage with a red tinge. The flowers are small, star-shaped and a vivid pink. The fruits are red and very showy in the winter. Partial shade is good for this rose shrub which will be five to eight feet tall. It comes to us from the mountains of central Europe.

THE OTHER DAY I came upon a home which has excellent foundation planting and the entire front of the property is attractive. It is the home of the Albert Hellstroms at 1524 Yosemite. The house is a citrus yellow one story ranch home with light grey shutters. The evergreens are well established around the foundation of the attractive home.

There is a breezeway and garage attached to one side of the home. To balance this development on the left side there is a grouping of mature spruces forward on the front lawn. Excellent design.

In front of the doorway is a fern fence, parallel with the front of the house and about 20 feet long and 20 feet away from the structure. A lamp post is at one end.

Climbing roses spread over the fence with mums at the base on the street side. On the side facing the front door are colorful annuals. Stepping stones have been placed between the fence and home leading up to the doorway.

As this house faces north, hydrangeas are prominent this time of year to relieve the texture of the evergreens around the foundation.

ALSO ON THE front lawn there is a flowering crab which has its branches trimmed up five and a half feet and gives an oriental effect with the large branches bare to that level. At the base there are geraniums and petunias.

Needless to say the Hellstroms know plant material and I dare say trial and error has been a

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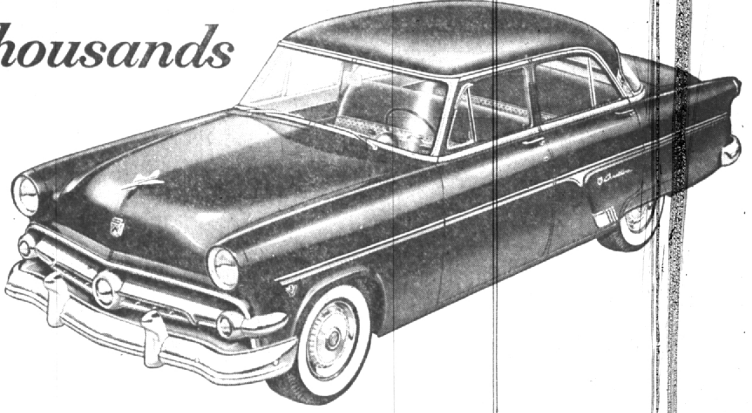
directly beneath them was a simple, small grouping of small yews. As this home was objectively observed it seemed as though there was the right balance between the importance of the trees, the architectural lines of the colonial home and the important placing of plant accents around the foundation.

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