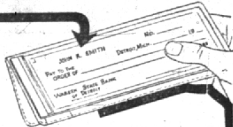


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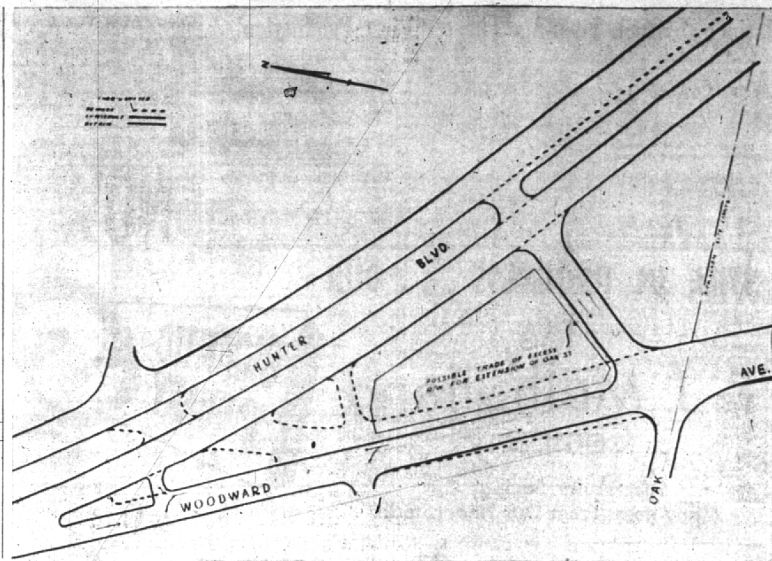
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A PLAN DESIGNED TO REDUCE the traffic hazards encountered at the intersection of N. Woodward and Hunter has been advanced by the City of Birmingham. As shown above, the plan would eliminate the present northbound crossover and would create a new intersection by the extension of Oak Street to Hunter. Woodward Avenue would be narrowed considerably north of Oak. The suggestion has been made that a trade of the resultant unused portion of Woodward right of way could possibly be made with Socopy Vacuum Oil company, owners of the affected property, for the land necessary to extend Oak. The plan would allow for a right angle approach to Hunter, thus eliminating the unusual angles that have proved costly to lives and property at the present intersection. City officials indicated annexation of the area involved from Bloomfield township would be necessary before Birmingham could undertake the project.

DOWN TO EARTH

Special Hints on How To 'Satisfy' Plants

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many localities, during this last month, have been enjoying the flowering period of their Christmas cacti. I saw a fine specimen at the home of Mrs. H. J. Robinson, East Hickory road, Bloomfield Hills. It is 35 years old, approximately four feet in diameter and had around 350 blooms this year.

Mrs. Robinson manages this large pot on a foot-square redwood dolly, mounted on wheels. This is an ideal way for anyone to handle a heavy plant, for with the load on wheels the area can be easily cleaned and the location changed to please your whim.

THE ROBINSONS' sunroom has been developed into a conservatory filled with impatiens, geraniums and sundry foliage plants.

They have a fine variegated spider plant, kept on a shelf with clusters of "spiders" hanging down four and a half feet.

The success of this room is due, I feel, to the low temperature, about 65 degrees and most favorable for plants. They have rain water piped into the room, a natural for abundant growth, and last but not least, the two women of the household "just love plants". It seems as though their plants put on a good performance to show their appreciation.

THERE IS A book, just published, which tops all houseplant books to date. It is "How to Grow Beautiful House Plants" by Thomas H. Everett. The writer is one of the prominent men in growing and introducing new plants. He is the horticulturist for the New York botanical gardens and knows his subject due to constant, practical experience.

In 1952 he was sent to Great

Britain and Ireland to secure rare plants for introduction into the United States. He brought back 222 plants, 48 cuttings, and 49 varieties of seeds. It was my interest in plant production which took me to New York in December to make inquiries at the New York botanical gardens, sponsors of his trip.

IN THIS particular expedition rare camellias were located which would interest those who enjoy greenhouse culture. Some choice campanulas came over in the shipment. We are fond of canterbury bells and they are in this group.

In Ireland a magnificent fall-coloring maple was seen but since only a few plants exist cuttings will be sent to this country later.

While in England, Everett located an English elm that had mutated and produced a variegated form previously unknown to English horticulturists. That will be introduced here later.

It was George Meredith who wrote, "Enter these enchanted woods, ye who dare!"

This challenge seems most appropriate when you are already a plant lover and interested in converting friends to this "way of life."

BY THIS time I assume many of you took my suggestion and have morning glories growing in sunny windows. They will soon want scotch tape to fasten them to the window.

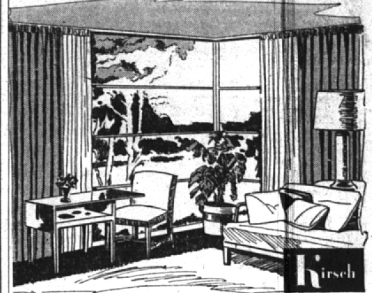
Also, this is the month you will want to start amaryllis bulbs to give "zip" to your plant collection the last of February. They will reward you with wonderful large bells.

Ficus doescheri or variegated rubber plant, is one growth you can place where there isn't much light. The two shades of green gives an interest and the smooth, large leaves a texture which will be right against a plain wall background.

Don't let anybody sell you a gardenia plant unless you have a greenhouse. They like daily ventilation and are susceptible to mealy bugs when their cultural conditions aren't correct. Often they form buds, then "blast", a trade term

For dropping. This plant has transparent branches and wants plenty of water. This can be supplied when needed by the wick. About the middle of April you will want to take cuttings from the master plant for your garden. As they are very tender don't plant outdoors until about May 20.

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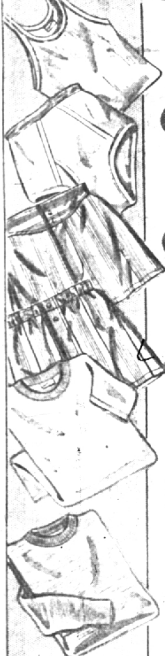
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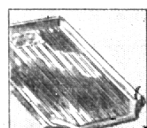
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