

Garden Club Groups Learn by Visiting

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Decoration Day is the date most of us set as our goal for having our yards in prime appearance. Maybe this deadline comes from the Memorial Day celebrations we used to have when the porches were wound with red, white and blue bunting, and the parade and family picnic was the theme of the day.

If you have a garden where the old stalks from last season's annuals and perennials salute you, you might like to use the following method to clean up.

The Number One aid is an edger which I use in the first step of tackling a flower bed. Then work back into the bed, working in an area about five feet along the edge. By using this system you can stop at any time and feel that though you have accomplished more than you would had you tackled the job in a hit and miss manner.

AS I WRITE this column I have been working outdoors and it was gratifying to find a half bushel of good black humus and to be able to dig it out of a compost pile which was up of leaves last fall. I smiled as the worms wigged through it as then I knew the soil was rich and good.

Recently the garden class from the Community House visited the home of Roberta Hulbert, 680 West Brown, who showed the students around his well planned garden.

The boxwood border where the plants had been placed three and a half feet apart was an idea many wanted to incorporate in their yards.

The Korean boxwood is hardy and will grow around two feet high. Early spring is a good time to transplant these plants. Late June is the best time to trim a boxwood hedge.

MANY YEARS ago Hulbert developed the vacant lot next to him which had been devoted to "growing boys." Along one boundary he placed hemlocks about 18 feet apart which have taken shady conditions and really given a high "curtain" backdrop.

Our host could not emphasize enough the importance of a good compost pile in his garden. Several times during the season he cuts through his pile of "stuff" with a shovel which he has sharpened. By doing this to a pile of waste leaves and garden material it behaves as though he ignited it and causes it to deteriorate faster than if left alone.

Many folks hesitate to make a compost pile saying that weed seeds have an invitation to continue their damage when incorporated in the pile. Research has shown that the intense heat on the pile caused by the decaying process kills the seeds.

HULBERT enjoys sharing plants with garden friends. Therefore early in the spring he takes seedlings he can safely separate and places them in pots, sinking them

flush in the ground, so it is very easy for him to have a gift ready for those who share his way of life.

One of his choice perennials is the chimney bellflower which came to this country from southern Europe. It will grow four to six feet high and have flowering spikes of blue or white in July and August. It will need staking and winter protection. The plant is a variety of Canterbury bells but superior in Hulbert's estimation.

His winter daisies sprang itself around their old-fashioned porch and our gardener warned us to not fertilize it to encourage flowering. It wants to be treated rough.

Here we were introduced to a new friend in the land of flowers, spirea filipendula. It is good for a border and has double white flowers on 12 inch stems and fern-like foliage. It is a good cutting flower and you would use it in the border the way we have used coral-bells for years. Let's try something new.

IN THIS fine garden on Brown street we remember seeing the mallows last summer which flowered in August and September and were five feet high. You may want to make this perennial a "must" for this year to assure late summer interest.

As we left he called to the group, "Do come back and see the garden as often as you wish."

A love of gardening assures us the ownership of the golden key to many doors.

Another stop on the student tour was the garden of E. H. Goldsmith, 3724 Oakland, Bloomfield township.

There we saw a beautifully planned garden, one year old, the planning and planting being done by a husband and wife team. There is a circular drive with low growing yews outlining the roadway.

Large emperor tulip bulbs are massed in a big flower bed within the circular drive. The property adjoins the Oakland Hills country club, the boundaries are marked off with low brick walls.

Within one wall is a large perennial garden while the other en-

Three Flags DAR Chairmen Named

Michigan state registrar, Mrs. Richard Largess, presided at the installation of officers for Three Flags chapter, DAR, when the group met in Birmingham on May 10.

Committee chairmen for the term are, national defense, Mrs. Kai Hanson; Americanism, Mrs. C. Robitaille; approved schools, Mrs. Conrad Nisom; auditing, Mrs. George McGowan. Conservation, Mrs. Frank Gouldburg; consultant, Mrs. Leroy Hooper; correct use of the flag, Mrs. Lee Stowell; DAR Good Citizen pilgrims, Mrs. Raymond Bodinus; DAR Magazine, Mrs. Gouldburg.

FINANCE, Mrs. Hooper; genealogical records, Mrs. Largess; membership, Mrs. Carl Bush; Red Cross, Mrs. Robert Vint; publicity, Mrs. Robert Hauser; social, Mrs. R. E. Elias, Mrs. Harold Hill, Mrs. Hanson.

The June picnic for south Oakland chapters will be held in the garden of Mrs. Harry Stanton, 13 Poplar Park, Pleasant Ridge, on June 3. Members of Extra Parker chapter will be hostesses.

It was also announced that Three Flags chapter would host the regional meeting at Southfield church next September. Plans for this event are already under way.

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the closure.

closure has a large rose garden. In the center of this rear garden there is a fountain which can have a constant change of color tones playing on the falling water at night.

THE GOLDSMITH's home is another "must" for those new gardeners who wonder how long it will take to express a beautiful garden with their personal efforts.

Pilgrimage time is travel time for the cult of gardeners who are eager to explore for new plant material and new ideas to express plant material on their property.

Therefore on the weekend of May 22 and 23 men and women from this area will be traveling to Grosse Ile, Trenton and Wyandotte for their garden study.

The Westcott gardens on Grosse Ile are huge with long winding paths. They specialize in azaleas, rhododendrons and various other acid loving plants. The day is always complete in my book if the trip is planned with a picnic so you can sit along the river bank and watch the freighters go by.

First Couple to Say Vows in New Church

Walter B. Randall claimed Janet Elizabeth Price as his bride in a Saturday afternoon ceremony attended by 130 guests.

The Rev. Robert S. Graham and Dr. W. Glen Harris officiated at the 2 o'clock rites in the First Presbyterian church, which were the first to be performed in the new chapel. A reception followed in the Birmingham Community House.

Janet, who resides at 897 Chestnut, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Kennedy Price of



MRS. WALTER B. RANDALL

Jackson Heights, N. Y. Walter's parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. Clifton Randall, 770 Shirley drive. A satin puff accented the neckline and skirt of the ankle length ice blue satin bridal gown. A tulle veil fell from her pearl beaded headress and she carried white carnations and stephanotis.

HONOR attendant was Mrs. Robert R. Clark wearing an ankle length light blue taffeta dress with a sheer white overskirt and a pale bonnet headress adorned with flowers. She carried duobert carnations and white daisies. Ruth Zoldens and Beverly Jongeward were bridesmaids gowned in blue taffeta with flowers and headress identical to the matron of honor's.

Louis Farquar was best man. Ushers were John Terkeurst, Robert Cavan and James Price, brother of the bride.

THE BRIDE's mother wore a slate blue taffeta ensemble with white accessories and a white orris. Mrs. Randall had fuchsia roses pinned to her beige lace dress.

The new Mrs. Randall donned a yellow shantung dress with black accessories to start her motor trip to Florida. After June 1, they will make their home at 897 Chestnut. Out of town guests include Miss Beulah Duxbury and Mrs. T. C. Kidder, aunts of the bride from Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. William Tight, sister of the groom from Needham Heights, Mass.

BETROTHAL of Jeanne Weber to Donnelly Joseph Sweeney is announced by her parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Leroy H. Weber of Evansville, Ind. Donnelly is the son of Mrs. Joseph A. Sweeney of Bloomfield Hills and the late Mr. Sweeney. The wedding will take place June 19 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Evansville.

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