

DOWN TO EARTH

Special Thrill from One's Own Garden

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

One of the rewards of gardening is the pleasure one experiences when bulbs and plants come into flower for the first time from your efforts. This is especially true if you have planted them to carry out a pattern you have "carried around in your head".

The purchase of boxes of beautiful pansies pays great dividends and you will enjoy planting a few pots as a surprise for the invalid down the block or the mother with a large family, who enjoys unexpected treats.

If you want to see an improvement in the condition of a sick person, take him an attractive pot of pansies and suggest that he pinch off some flowers for a bouquet. This act takes very little strength and makes the patient realize that he can do something.

AS PANSIES are field grown and live exposed to the elements all winter they are ready to enjoy your yard regardless of the date.

Pansy seed should be sown in July so they will be ready for flowering. This timing classifies them as "biennials".

There is a new strain coming on the market from England which has a decided fragrance and

sunny location and makes an excellent cut flower.

The adventuring gardener, 1955 style, may be interested in using a limited space against a structure for an espaliered fruit tree. Due to sun seal you will find the west or north will be good if not already in the shade of a building.

Bartlett pears are very good for this use. Pruning in April is very important to assure restricted growth in a horizontal manner, east and west. Concentrated pruning is done in August and September when growth is rapid.

When I visited the White House recently to gather information about flowers and plant material, I saw many items of interest.

Along the south terrace there was an espaliered wisteria to add splendor to the white background of the building.

IN FRONT OF the president's office was a combination of white azaleas and President Eisenhower red tulips in a planned pattern, an eye catcher to a circular drive at the entrance.

One detail I liked especially was a hedge of ivy, clipped four feet high, along the white stone wall. It had width of only about six inches, a grand tip for those Birmingham gardeners who have a narrow strip problem.

The Covert Robertsons on Lake Park have carried out the same idea with sunshines, trained to

look like a hedge even though it climbs on their brick wall.

I MENTIONED to Bob Redmond, my host, that there were no shrubs along the margin of the White House grounds, all detail being carried out by varied tree

selection. He explained that this pattern is used to help assure safety for the president.

The most outstanding tree I saw is one we can enjoy in Michigan, a fern leaf beech.

The trunk is light grey and has a very graceful form.

Andrew Jackson planted a magnolia grandiflora on the south lawn near the White House, which forms part of a summer house. Under it are large gracious pieces of white furniture where President Roosevelt enjoyed his summer meals, often with business guests

at noon.

IF YOU HAVE bought a new home and have children I would surely suggest that you consider having an Arbor Day celebration. Officially in Michigan, it is the last Friday in April. Have the children plant a tree to nurture and enjoy from their childhood.

Arbor Day was started in Nebraska in 1872, the idea of Julius Sterling Morton, secretary of agriculture under President Cleveland. It was inspired by the need of conservation of our tree resources.



MRS. ROBERT WILLIAM EDWARDS

Jamaica and Puerto Rica Newlyweds' Destination

A wedding trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, followed the marriage of Janet Beth Hanna and Robert William Edwards on Friday.

The Rev. Phillip Stables officiated at the 7:30 p.m. rites in the Mayflower Congregational church, Detroit. Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held in the Detroit Athletic club.

Janet is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Don Hanna of Avon Lane. Robert's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Arthur Edwards, live in Detroit.

Attending the couple were Dolores Jaeger and James Arthur Edwards.

After their honeymoon, Janet and Bob will live at 3214 Coolidge, Royal Oak.

1750 Club Looks To Coming Year

The 1750 club, which recently held its last dance of the season at Brookland country club in Rochester, will plan its coming year this month.

New officers and the seven couples who organized the club will meet together to discuss what duties will be for the next season.

Host and hostess for the last dance were Mr. and Mrs. A. A. McPherson and Mr. and Mrs. William Palmer.

Past Chiefs Meet

Past Chiefs of the Pythian Sisters will meet at 8 p.m. April 20 at the home of Mrs. Edith Adams, 951 E. Ruffner.

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