

Local Alpha Chis Attend State Day

Fifteen members of Alpha Chi Omega from the Birmingham area were among the 500 sorority women who attended State Day at the University of Michigan on April 25.

The alumnae were feted at a luncheon in the Women's League, taken on a bus tour of the campus and entertained at an open house in Alpha Chi's newly decorated chapter house.

Birmingham members attending were Mrs. Thomas H. Adams, Mrs. Priscilla Anderson, Mrs. W. W. Birchard, Mrs. Roger Cleary, Mrs. Reed Dewey, Mrs. Connie Farrell, Mrs. William C. Gidley, Mrs. H. P. Halladay, Mrs. James Livingston, Mrs. J. D. Livingston, Mrs. Martin Glatz, Mrs. Gordon Pulling, Mrs. William J. Thompson, Mrs. Arthur Thorbury and Mrs. Robert Walls.

DOWN TO EARTH

Forsythia Teases Other Shrubs to Bloom

By ALICE WESELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

While the thrill of the first flowers of spring are still fresh in your experience, evaluate the use of forsythia with its sharp yellow tone gayly teasing the other shrubs to burst into leaf.

After flowering is the time to prune forsythia. Take out the older canes at ground level. This keeps the shrub perennially youthful.

There are two schools of thought about trimming the ends of the branches to give a restricted contour. This shrub is meant to have its branches fall toward the ground like a fountain.



Mrs. Burlingame

When making a new selection insist on the Lynwood gold for a design. Japanese varieties which will be nearly six feet high upon maturity and will be a mass of large-golden, yellow flowers.

YELLOW DAFFODILS play an important role, too, in the awakening of spring.

As they multiply rapidly, they should be sparsely placed to allow for the later forming of large clumps. The King Alfred variety will only do best in full sun, while the regular assortment will feel at home in any setting but should have no more than half shade for best results.

If your tulips have curled leaves it can be due to fire blight. They should be removed and burned and do not place a new planting in the same area. Do not confuse this

type of leaf damage with the results of a harsh frost.

I RECENTLY went to the Williamsburg symposium especially to hear the famed landscape architect, Garrett Eckbo from Los Angeles.

He emphasized that a garden is part of the house due to views from the dwelling, so through the years there has been a constant change of accepted standards due to the cycles in the change of some architecture.

The land use, as we think of our own backyards, is the guide for a design. Japanese gardens are highly organized gardens at



Mrs. Michael Freeman

Collector Of Antique Art Talks

Musical instruments ranging in era from primitive to baroque will be displayed and played for the Birmingham Women's club members meeting for installation and luncheon on Tuesday.

Mrs. Michael Freeman will bring her collection and talk on "Origin and Development of Musical Instruments" at the luncheon session at Baptist church auditorium.

Mrs. Carl Rice will conduct the meeting, starting at 11 a.m. preceding noon meal being planned by Mrs. Harry Tremper's committee.

MRS. TREMPER'S aides with the day's plans are Mrs. James Crowe, Mrs. George Johnston, Mrs. William Grabendike, Mrs. George Jackson, Mrs. Harry Sherwood, Dr. Richard Thomas, Mrs. Eric Jacobson and Mrs. Irving Brown.

Mrs. Freeman's program will feature also recordings of the most interesting instruments in her collection.

Her collection includes 17th century Hurdy Gurdys, Spanish guitars, and an 18th century lyra. Her collections include some 30 masks from Oriental and African plays and rituals, antique furniture, and choicest of ceremonial robes.

A DETROIT resident, she speaks frequently, has recently taken up concert-arrangement, and travel for collection.

She frequently opens her programs wearing an authentic artist's robe and mask from Tibet when talking on mask and ceremonial garbs.

Entertains PEO At Lahser Home

Chapter I of the PEO sisterhood will be entertained at the home of Mrs. A. J. Wismuller, 4778 Lahser today. The members of the Detroit unit, which includes many Bloomington and Birmingham residents, will hear Mrs. W. E. Moody give an illustrated talk on "Gardens and Beauty Spots of America."

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "Furnish-Homes" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

In the Japanese influence on contemporary design, I know that you will want to put into these days some "Americana favoring." As you return to your garden program, keep in mind that the garden design should come first in your planning, then select the plant material to execute it with a knowledge of that plant's requirements.

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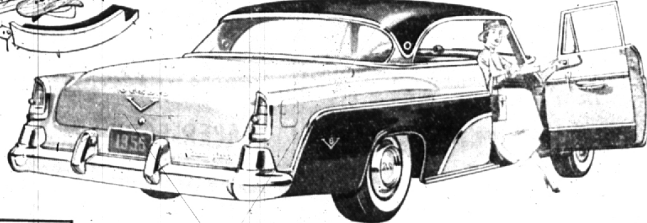
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the best, Eckbo commented.

This statement challenged me to spend a day in the library of the University of Michigan school of architecture, studying books from Japan and illustrations of their garden design.

This survey brought out the following points:

STEPPING STONES are very important in a garden and their rhythmic placing to "invite" a walk is important. They may be placed to direct traffic around a structure or within flower beds.

Where grass will not grow the Japanese use pea gravel which they keep neat by raking.

On property where a wing of the house or garage gives a protected area, the challenge exists to make this section into an intimate garden by the selection of choice plant material and maybe some sculptured specimen.

The Japanese stress the need for concealing a portion of the structure by trees to break the architecture line and create a lacy effect. Back with our selection of plant material this could be done with cut leaf beeches, maples, etc., or further selection could be found with the dogwood tree and the redbud tree with its black trunk which gives an unusual effect.

OFTEN A ROOM will enjoy a garden of its own. If you live in a ranch home you will have a garden of choice plants outside the window.

As for general Japanese design, their emphasis is upon selecting plants to give you the right proportion. By knowing their potential mature height, third dimensional effect and created along with color, texture and weight.

Each home garden should have a vista created by leaving plants

ing areas open to allow the view to travel great distances.

The Japanese advocate building artificial hills to blot out unwanted views. I can think of many local gardens which would have new interest if a small hill could be created. The Roger Kyles home has such a hill planted as a lovely rock garden.

FOR A CORRECT ratio of plant selection on property the Japanese advocate a ratio of seven evergreens to three deciduous plants. They say that flowers in the garden are incidental to the form of the garden plan. A special area should be used for cut flowers.

In a Japanese garden you see many protruding fences of various designs to hide views or gates. These are called "sleeve fences" because they are like a kimono sleeve.

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