

DOWN TO EARTH

Trip West to Give New Ideas

Entertain Guests From California

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Tolles, 633 Chestersfield, entertained dining guests from California Sunday. They were Mr. and Mrs. Hunter S. Robbins, Jr. of Berkeley, Calif. Mrs. Robbins was a classmate of Mrs. Tolles at the University of Southern California.

BY ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric
The Burlingames are taking a west coast trip over the same highways as Birmingham gardening authority Jonathan Ball.

There I hope to see flower gardens at their peak of splendor due to the heavy dew each night. The last trip in that direction provided your columnist with many new ideas in garden design and plant selection useful in our area.

This is a good time to consider repotting your house plants with some of that good compost you have been "hacking" through your lessons in conservation of cuttings and miscellaneous plant clippings. It is a good idea to wash out the containers before repotting. Be sure the soil is rich in humus. A one-third peat moss mixture holds moisture within the pot and cuts down on the frequency of watering. I don't think fertilizer is necessary if you have good, new

soil. Just remember to fertilize every month thereafter.

IT IS A good idea to shake off the old soil and I often dip the roots in lukewarm water. When you prepare to fill the pot with soil around the plant plan to have a three-quarter inch margin between the top of the soil and the rim of the pot. If you accept this method of filling the pot with soil you will find it easier to water a large grouping of plants uniformly.

Perhaps you Mrs. Burlingame will have a plant in fested with insects. Your houseplant may be fumigated by placing it in an airtight container and putting a teaspoon of cyanide in the bottom of the container. Now close the box and leave the plant in the container for 15 to 30 minutes. It is safe to perform this task outdoors.

TOURING THE town with a roving eye is always fun. On South Millersway I saw an effect at Scott's which I liked.

They have a flower bed at the end of their driveway to beautify the attached garage. In it is a gay collection of bright colors, with phlox, iris, petunias. A touch of deep purple seemed to give accent to the bed in combination with the several pink shades.

The Scotts are lucky to have an apple tree which has been trimmed up high to show the interesting trunk and branches.

At 5922 East Miller way the Vogts have an American flag in a prominent location. It flies above a farm fence that is on a line with the front of the house. Some day I am going on a soap box to advocate the frequent flying of our flag throughout the year.

THE ATTRACTIVE Vogt home is set in an apple orchard where they, too, have realized the value in beauty of trimming their apple trees high.

AT 5888 East Miller way, the Conollys are to be congratulated. In front of their home, near the street, is a steep embankment about six feet high. Rather than go through the hard work of cutting such a steep bank they placed a split rail fence at the top. It provides the finish to the house view. The embankment has been allowed to go natural. Would like to see if the embankment were mine, that I would be tempted to plant a few hundred daffodils. As the soil is sandy each planting should have a generous amount of rich humus. It wouldn't be very long before the bank would be a solid mass of yellow every spring. Myrtle could be spotted on the bank too. This ground plant would eventually squeeze out the weeds and provide erosion control.

This colony of homes is filled with many instances where good gardening has become contagious and has enhanced the appearance of all the homes.

These streets would give new gardeners many visual lessons on effective planning for ranch homes with many topographical problems intelligently handled.

Form Marygrove Alumnae Unit

Organization of Marygrove alumnae took place last week when about 25 women gathered at the home of Mrs. Donald McGaffee, 316 Pierce, a member of the board of directors of the Alumnae Association of the college.

Membership in the group is open to Birmingham area members, including Franklin, Lathrup, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield township and village.

SEVERAL OTHER board members of the organization attended the meeting. Officers of the group have not been chosen as yet. Among localities active in the formation are Mrs. Judge Beardon and Mrs. L. W. Matthews.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

HEADQUARTERS FOR LEVIS

NANCY JEAN HOLMES

Hiram Holmes' Tell of Troth Of Daughter

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Perry Holmes of Fairfax announced the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Jean, to Charles Dennison Gilbert at a dinner party, Friday evening at the Bloomfield Hills Country club.

Miss Holmes' fiance is the son of Mrs. Charles Dennison Gilbert of Algonac and the late Mr. Gilbert.

She is a graduate of Kingwood, Cranbrook, and Bennett Junior college. Gilbert is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he received his master's degree in business administration. He was affiliated with Sigma Nu fraternity.

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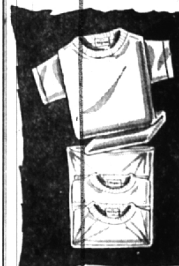
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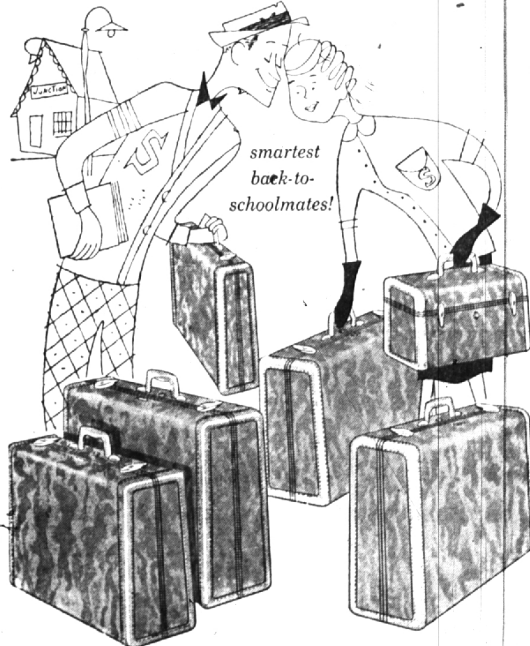
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205 Pierce St., Birmingham, Mich.