

**12 Towns Drain Hearing Dec. 15**

Construction of the 12 Towns Drain to serve South (hatched) and many involved in the northern municipalities would be facilitated if the project, the manager of the project were rehabilitated into three stages. Birmingham City Manager D. C. Roberts believes a hearing on the project has been set for Dec. 15 in Royal Oak, and is a new formal start on him to see if County Drain Com. the project to clear up certain missioner Ralph A. Mann would hold technicalities.

**DOWN TO EARTH**

**Gather Garden Greens for Yule**

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many people overlook the fact that often their own garden contains plant material which they can use in their holiday arrangements within the home.

With this idea in mind, Mrs. F. H. McKinney and Mrs. Clifford Roberts recently presented a program to our local garden club. Here are some of their tips:

Perhaps you belong to my school of pruning. When it comes to cutting evergreens, I leave most of the program for the Christmas season.

YOU WILL like to gather and dry (evergreens) to achieve texture in arrangement. Little auxiliary trimming is necessary, aside from a well chosen container, a small art object or Christmas balls.

Take a trip from your arrangement, just before you will want to grow indoors. Immerse in glycerin for this time of year because the needles are a rich, purple-brown color, pine and cypripedium.

YOU can cure ivy branches for a wreath by soaking in two parts water and one part glycerin, the proportions used by Mrs. Roberts. Soak the stems in the mixture for about two weeks or they won't wilt. The leaves then take on a leathery appearance.

YOUR BROADLEAF evergreens such as rhododendrons, peris japonica, Holly, hick, pyracantha, holly, and hignicola, cranberry, as well as leucocora can also receive the glycerin treatment.

It is possible to combine the treasures from your own yard with

ideas for tree trimmings. With construction paper and metallic papers they achieved results which could compete with commercial trimmings. The mother who teaches her children to create their own Christmas holiday splendor.

The season we are seeing many dried bouquets, as well as guest favors, with the center of interest. This is a new asset for the hostess. You might like to know more about this flower known as the Star of Bethlehem.

IT IS GROWN from a bulb, planted in the early summer in a pot. It can be brought inside after a sunny outdoor. However, few people grow it as a houseplant, as it sometimes requires high temperatures and it does not require much light.

**You May Become Christmas Vandal, Botanist Reveals**

Christmas vandals soon will be busy at work again stripping Michigan of its natural greenery, according to Dr. Marion T. Hall, a botanist at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

"Most people are so ignorant of the Wild Flower law," says Dr. Hall, they do not realize they are vandals by assertion when they buy illegally cut Christmas greens and trees.

"The Wild Flower law, adopted by Michigan State Legislature in 1931 and amended in 1941 and 1943, was primarily an anti-private property abuse of public and private lands by Christmas tree and greenery pickers," Dr. Hall continues.

"How can you avoid being an unwitting partner in this destruction? Simply look for official identification tags on all trees or greens you buy at Christmas time, and, of course, never never cut trees or greens along the highway or in the woods, unless you are cutting on your own property."

"NOT CONTENT with 'picking' however, these vandals snank the greens out by the roots, particularly the mosses, trailing evergreen, cypress, related to ferns. This is the ever-lasting cycle of development because it makes way for new growth which becomes a breeding place for insect pests that attack crop plants in the area," Dr. Hall states.

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