

Series to Help Gardeners Improve Homesites

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

If you have a discarded holiday tree cut it up and place the boughs around choice plants to act as a snow trap. Snow is the perfect mulch to protect plants from the damage of freezing and thawing.

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In January many gardeners enjoy their rocking chairs awaiting the arrival of the first seed catalogs. This is an excellent time to use the resources at the Baldwin Public Library for your own con-



Mrs. Burlingame

tinued education program. At the reference desk there is a list of books and suggested reading, so whether you are a newcomer or an advanced gardener, this winter study will be worthwhile.

A professor of landscape design from the University of Cincinnati, M. E. Bottomly, has written a book, "New Designs of Small Property," which is worthy of study.

Here are some points he made on planning your property:

A GARDENER should first make his garden plan, then select the material on the basis of the right plant for the right place. The design should be artistic with respect to the architectural features of the home and lot location, combining height and textures to give a well balanced result.

Style is the basis of planting design and the wise homeowner matches the maintenance with his time and energy, plus the sum of money he plans to spend for the total result.

Many who have moved into this area are owners of colonial homes, which seem narrow and high to them. They will want to draw out their plantings horizontally, especially at the corners, to bring down the roof elevation by camouflage.

AVOID BREAKING up the front lawn by sidewalk or spec-

imen plants if you wish to increase the appearance of your home. The choice magnolia or other similar specimens should be to the side in order to enhance the frame of the home by trees and smaller green material.

Often the prominence of architectural shortcomings can be controlled by using trees and vines. In modern design, hedges are important and from this year forward I wouldn't neglect hedges from the home grounds due to maintenance. The new hormone sprays control the rate of growth and the interim between clippings.

The abrupt appearance of flat roofed homes can be decreased by developing a setting of trees.

If you have a picnic table plan on shielding this area by a tree which will cast its shade to prevent the late sun in the west from spoiling your fun.

MODERN DESIGN of gardens for modern home stresses that the total should be unsymmetrical. In other words not balanced, in the placing of flower beds and the planting of trees.

Bottomly made some very good pointers relative to the construction of rock gardens. Often the topography calls for this treatment and there are many pitfalls in the construction of them.

Often rare plants do not give a mass showing but call for a lot of work. The rocks must be carefully laid up and not just stuck into the bank. Groupings of similar rocks often give a better appearance than a pinka did effect.

Visiting Teacher To Tell Pierce PTA Of This Work Field

At the Pierce school PTA meeting on Jan. 20, Mrs. Rieba Cope, visiting teacher for Barnum and Pierce Schools, will discuss "Mental Health in Our Schools."

Mrs. Cope will give a description of her work and tell how she helps children work out their problems. There will also be a film, entitled "Roots of Happiness," which depicts in an unusual setting the effects of family relationship upon the mental health and personality of the child.

Mrs. Cope received her master's degree in education from the University of Michigan. She did special work in guidance and counseling at Columbia University, and additional graduate work at Wayne University.

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She taught school for two years and did social work for six years, including two years at Saginaw and two at Lapeer Consultation Center. She established the visiting teacher program in Mr. Clemens and worked there for four years.

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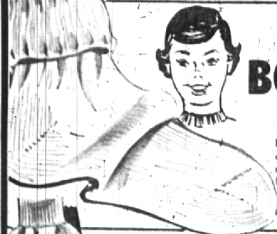
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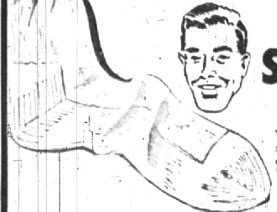
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