

Visit Gardens to Learn

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The best lessons you can have these days toward improving your garden is to visit a really good garden. Those gardens visited by your reporter always have the latch string out for new garden friends and the gardeners are willing to try to help you solve your problems.

The Joseph Johnsons are a garden team living at 6426 Wing Lake road, who have discovered a new feeling of achievement as they have created an unusual garden out of a problem area. Their location is across from the Wing Lake school and two years ago the site was a wilderness of wild bushes and mountains of earth from the construction of the

home.

FROM THE road elevation the large lot had quite a slope so a bulldozer was used to level the earth. Existing trees had to have tender care because they will not accept a change of grade line.

In two instances, to assure prosperous trees with care for their roots, rock gardens were planted to keep the elevation high enough for the roots.

On the east side of the lot where the elevation was raised, a well about five feet in diameter was made by lining the depth with broken concrete. The bottom has a base of medium sized stones. In one location they have handled the drainage from an cave through in a clever manner.

WHERE THE water would drain on the lawn and provide an erosion problem they have made a circular pit about two feet deep and two feet in diameter which has been filled with small and medium sized stones to accept surplus water.

Along the back of Johnson's property is a lane for the convenience of school children. A rustic fence has been made and ornamented with multiflora roses along the inside line to provide a fine backdrop for the perennial garden in front of it.

BRIGHT ORANGE Siberian wall flowers, gerum and many clumps of choice iris followed the earlier show of gay spring bulbs.

On the south side of the house Mrs. Johnson had garden dillies tulips which had flowered a week before Easter. This variety gave five dainty carmen red talips on one plant.

There is a door from the kitchen the Johnsons wished to make

unimportant so they made an attractive trellis and planted a silver lace vine which has a nice texture and covers the entrance. For shade use their favorite evergreen is the Canadian hemlock, Rhododendrons are also planted in the shade on the north side.

THESE GARDENERS put their lawn in the middle of July. Note that date. They planted perennial rye and clover to assure a quick start. In the fall the usual bluegrass seed was planted and they now have a thick, dense turf two years from the planting date. They use a commercial fertilizer in early spring, the middle of July and September first.

In a half-shade area they had the flowering iris. Eleanor Roosevelt was my favorite with its flower the color of purple velvet.

BY THE WAY this is the time of year to buy your iris, when it is in flower. Don't divide established clumps until after flowering, however.

Kerria japonica is a shrub which likes shade and gave glory to this garden with its yellow flowers and light green foliage.

Mrs. Johnson has a fox hole shovel which is her favorite and it didn't take me long to pick one up at an army supply store to make my gardening easier.

The creek bed which runs through the perennial garden sets the tempo for beauty for these top local gardeners and a spot for you to visit.



NEW PRESIDENT of the American Association of University Women, at right, is Mrs. Howard B. Green. She is shown taking the gavel from Mrs. Burley Laurie, who retired from the office at a recent meeting at the Community House.

Mrs. Smart Honors Niece

Mrs. Frederick A. Smart, of Orchard road, Bloomfield Township, entertained at a luncheon and shower at the Detroit Athletic club on Wednesday, June 1, to honor her niece, Marilyn Mower, of Grosse Pointe.

Miss Mower will become the bride of Air Cadet Wayne H. Wiswedel, also of Grosse Pointe, on June 4.

The party, which included only family members, took place in a private dining room, with pink and white flowers on the luncheon and gift tables.

GUESTS WERE the bride-to-be's sister, Marcia Mower; the respective mothers, Mrs. Curtis V. Mower and Mrs. Fred A. Wiswedel; and the hostess' four daughters-in-law, Mrs. Frederick A. Smart, Jr., Mrs. Harry O. Smart, Mrs. Donald G. Smart and Mrs. Arnold C. Thomson.

Completing the group were Mrs. V. Tresselt Kysor, of Saginaw; Mrs. Lewis Lee Smart, Jr., of Grosse Pointe, and Mrs. Albert Craig, of Sewickley, Pa.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all news—call the society editor about them.

Localities Host Art Unit's Garden Sale at Pointe Home

A number of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills women will be hostesses at the annual garden sale of the Detroit Artists Market, scheduled for June 7th, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the gardens of Dexter M. Ferry, Jr., on East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe.

Mrs. Paul Bowers, Mrs. James H. Carmel, Mrs. Erwin T. Conway, Mrs. Graham John Graham, Mrs. Robert L. Graham, Jr., Mrs. Thomas Hewlett, Mrs. Eliot Robinson, Mrs. Benjamin H. Misco, Mrs. Edgar K. Thom and Mrs. Harry L.

Winston are serving as hostesses under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ferdinando Cunelli, who will also be assisted by forty other hostesses from Detroit and Grosse Pointe. Oil and watercolors will be displayed on easels on the broad expanse of lawn, and ceramics, textiles and jewelry will be shown on the stone terraces overlooking the lake. In case of rain, the event will be held next day regardless of the weather.

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