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DOWN TO EARTH

Pussy Willow Has a Place in Every Garden

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This is the time of year we enjoy having groupings of pussy willow boughs to give a tracery design against a plain wall as they are artistically shown in a prized container. The thoughtful gardener always plans her cutting to come through the joint so that the twigs will root readily and be available for gifts to new gardeners.

I consider the pussy willow "must" for the pleasure it affords as a shrub cutting in early spring. Too, it provides a shrub approximately 10 feet high with branches developing in a pleasing rounded effect.

Be sure and hold out for the French pussy willow boughs which have large, silvery pink catkins. Pussy willow twigs can be put in the soil at the base of your large potted plants. This gives a "new look" to an old plant.

IN YOUR perennial borders which have full sun, or where you wish to develop a specimen plant, you may like to take up the challenge of developing a beautiful wisteria tree.

This does not call for special stock but can be started from a shoot of a vine. Be sure that this shoot has come from a plant which



Mrs. Burlingame

is a prolific bloomer. The floribunda type will give better performance than the Chinese wisteria. Beside the healthy selected shoot put a sturdy stake and tie the cutting securely to assure a pright growing habit. Pinch off leaves from the upper part of the trained twig. By the second year your project will begin to look like a tree. It is important to keep cutting out all the wild, vining growth but cease this pruning program after the middle of August. After the "tree wisteria" blooms you will want to snip off the flower heads to allow the plant material to continue as a fine specimen with attractive leaves.

Stones Send Pink Birth Notices

Baby Model "A" is what the Robert A. Stones' pink, printed birth announcement read. "Features of the new model listed 'two long poems, free squeezing, and shipping weight seven pounds, 14 ounces,' with 'production date, March 6, 1935.' For Lois Ann Stone. The couple live at 395 Cookside road.



MARY ANN RAINEY

Betrothal Told At Family Dinner

Last Saturday night at a family dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rainey of Lennox announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Alfred J. Rosborough, Jr. He is the son of the Alfred J. Rosboroughs of Pilgrim. The bride-elect was graduated from Michigan State college and was affiliated with Alpha Phi sorority. Her fiancé was graduated from Colby college, Waterville, Me., and was a member of Delta Upsilon. An August wedding is planned.

IF YOU WANT a 15-foot shrub-like tree with unusual vivid blue berries in the fall, plant a Symlocos paniculata or Sweet leaf shrub. The effect is a mass of turquoise blue and needless to say the birds enjoy this treat.

The leaves are bright green with deep veining which makes a nice texture. This shrub is sometimes called "sweetleaf" and came to us from the Himalayas. It begins its season with panicles of white flowers.

Dr. Hobrook Takes Family to Paris

Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Hobrook of Beach road, are making the Hotel George V, just off the Champs Elysees, their headquarters during their stay in Paris.

They arrived at the hotel March 2 with plans for an extensive stay in Europe, beginning with a visit in London.

Dr. and Mrs. Hobrook were to return on Monday to the Parisian hotel, to join their son, Jon, and Dr. Hobrook's sister, Mrs. H. R. Miller, of Fort Wayne, Ind.

The party will motor to Rome, leaving tomorrow, and will then go on to Switzerland. Dr. Hobrook will fly back to Birmingham April 5, but the others will remain in Europe until the first part of May.

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Some have a planting problem—a dense, shady area. This might be the year you will want to begin your fern collection. You can mass them so that they will have the idea of a deep pile carpet.

The ladyfern has light green fronds and this variety will take sun or shade and a dry or wet location.

MAIDENHAIR FERN will grow approximately 15 inches high while the oak fern is low growing and ideal for a border location. The ladyfern has light green fronds and this variety will take sun or shade and a dry or wet location.

If you have rock outcrops you will enjoy the challenge of placing the right plants near the exposed rock for interest. You will find that in a shady location ferns will provide a good natural picture for you and some of the wild orchids will give special eye appeal nearby. This summer some of our area gardeners will be trying the idea of a lily pond. The locale on the property should be in full sun. Several manufacturers have ponds which sell already to install, generally plastic.

As water lilies are of two types, hardy and tropical, the decision will have to rest with you which type you wish to foster. The hardy water lilies flower through the first of the summer while the trop-

ical lilies begin their show in August.

ONCE A MONTH the lilies should be fertilized and you will be interested in having fish so that mosquitoes will not breed in the pool. It is important to plan on a portion of the pool being "open water" for a well balanced effect.

The duration of light your plants receive from natural light through a window as well as their location relative to a lighted lamp at night is an important factor in their successful growth.

MANY PLANTS suffer from too much light. The color of the leaves becomes a light green; flowers, if present, are dwarfed. Plants do not prosper if they have light 24 hours of the day. They become frustrated like human beings without their proper rest.

Over 90 per cent of the plant's weight is water. It is this fluid which carries chemicals absorbed from the soil by the roots, up to the leaves where the "factory" is located for the manufacture of sugars and starches.

Plants in or out of the home respond to your attention when you understand their habits and requirements.

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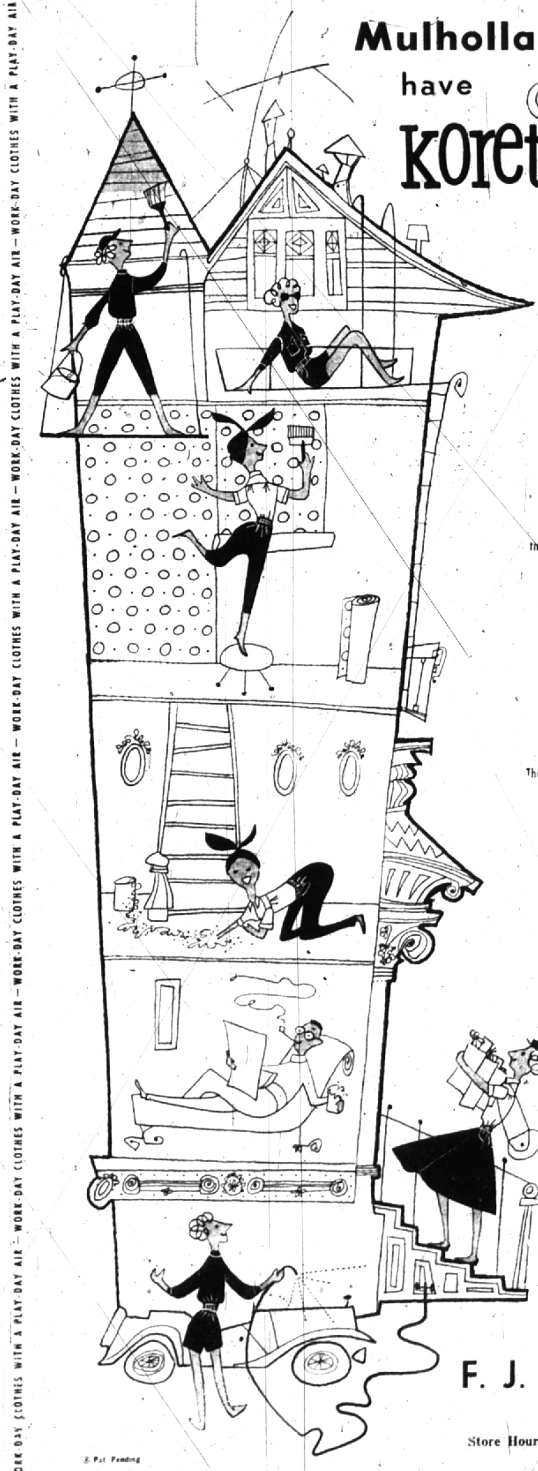
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