

Baby Sitter Problem Has Altered Pattern of Women's Societies

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Some women's clubs are being split right down the middle. Not by internal dissension, but by the high cost of baby-sitters. Clubs of any size at all have been divided into two sections—afternoon and evening, with—in some cases, disturbing results.

Before World War II most mothers had only one or two children and didn't do much daywork until the kids got into school. Or, if Mother did want to go out in the afternoon, baby-sitters could be had for a pittance. So by about the age of 30, mother, was back in the swing of clubwork.

But since the war, mothers have four or more children on the average, and if they waited until all were school age, they wouldn't get back to clubwork until they were 40 or more.

So these young mothers have by-passed afternoon affairs and hold meetings at night, leaving dad with the baby-sitting job.

These young mothers all drive cars and seem to enjoy going out in the evenings. They have to rothen or not get out with the girls at all.

IN SMALLER clubs, the whole membership has had to settle for evening meetings, a situation that has worked out poorly for some older women who don't drive cars and who are afraid to venture out at night. They've had to quit wowing.

For clubs with bigger membership, there's been a division into afternoon and evening sections.

For the most part, the afternoon sections consist of older women, some of whom lack the pep and zest they had 20 years ago. They've even been referred to as old fogies in some organizations. They usually remain the "parent" club, and they determine most of club policy. A square of attraction to some evening members.

But what worries afternoon groups most is that the younger women form lasting ties to their evening group friends, and refuse to come to afternoon sections, even after their children are in school.

ONE CLUB IN a nearby community had always met afternoons and had a healthy, vigorous club. Then a junior section was organized, meeting evenings, and with the idea that the juniors reached 40, they'd join the parent club.

That was 85 years ago, and so far no junior has ever reached the age of 40—or joined the afternoon section.

The result is that the original club, with only members over 40 to do the work, is becoming weaker every season. They have no new blood or young ideas, and the juniors are so entirely separate from the parent club, that they don't know the members at all.

They've really two separate clubs. And so another club has been split wide sunder by the not-so-lowly baby-sitter.

And it looks like things will stay this way for some time, despite the concern often voiced by older club women.

Coal Bin Becomes Hobby Greenhouse

By ALICE WESELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The other day I visited a Birmingham couple who share their love of growing indoor plants and what a display the Bernats at 785 Pierce have to show a visitor. Their family is grown and gone and they both have music as their profession.

On the east side of their home Bernat has constructed a Florida room of large dimensions. Around the windows there are built-in trays for potted plants. The trays are 12 inches wide and 14 inches deep so that ornamental-leaved plants in large pots can be assured proper placing in the planter.

In midwinter you have the feeling of enjoying a tropical garden. The room is needless to say, is a mecca for the family at mealtime and for all relaxing hours.

The room is located so that the exposure is "friendly" to both sun and shade loving plants.

THIS IS ONLY the beginning in describing their plant family as they have a fluorescent greenhouse located in their former coal room. The walls have been painted white and along two of them in all are two enclosed cases filled with exotic plants. Fluorescent lights are the source of light.

The structure begins at 36 inches above the floor and has three shelves, four inches, six inches and eight inches wide. These have galvanized trays which are two inches high with an inch of pea gravel in the bottom.

Fitted over the gravel is a lattice-work of metal which keeps the plants out of water. Sliding glass doors assure control over humidity and temperature.

AT THE PRESENT time, the plants are in 15-inch diameter, controlled by a time clock. There are two hanging fluorescent fixtures, one over each area. Each fixture has two 40-watt daylight fluorescent tubes. Also there are three hanging incandescent bulbs which are used to supplement the light and provide heat.

Plants are like humans; they have to have a period of rest during a day or they become "frustrated." When the lights go out the process within a plant are slowed down to a resting pace.

In the greenhouse I enjoyed seeing a hydrangea in bud, clematis, orchids, African violets, amaryllis in bud, callulinas and an Easter

Mrs. C. W. Blenman will review club meets for dessert at Mrs. A. the book, "Unto A Good Land," A. Mattison's home, 1993 Oxford, by Vilhelm Mackery, when the Grosse Pointe Woods at 1 p.m. University of Minnesota Women's tomorrow.

a yellow edge, seven inches across. The root looks like a torpedo. Plant it at an angle within the pot with a good inch of rich soil over the tip. Due to its potential five foot height you will want to place it on the floor and plan ahead for its support.

FOR YOUR forward spring planning some of you gardeners have an always present headache—a place which has wet soil. For this location there are two shrubs which won't complain too much.

The button bush (Cephalanthus Occidentalis) is beautiful with white flowers in July and August.

that look like pins stuck in a cushion. It will thrive in wet soil of a meadow and along streams, in full sun.

The sweet pepper bush (Clethra Alnifolia) has white flowers from July to September. The flowers are very fragrant. This shrub prefers a little shade, will attract bees and likes a slightly acid soil.

It is important that you analyze all of the conditions on your property, then select the proper piece of plant material. Through the 12 month period in this column I point out suggestions so that you can intelligently invest your plant dollar.

BY THIS TIME I hope garden followers have been cutting ornamental shrub branches for forcing. Be sure to cut these branches on a day when the temperature is rising, not on a cold day. This tip will assure you of better results.

Start them in the dark in a bucket of warm water and syringe the branches frequently. Lucky is the person who has some apple branches to force.

If you have a sunny window and would like an unusual effect with a glamorous plant secure the pot of a gloriosa Rothschildiana Lily or glory lily.

It will have flowers which will last three weeks. It grows very fast and the flowers are red with

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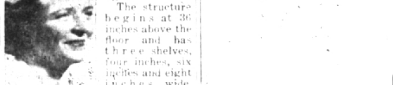
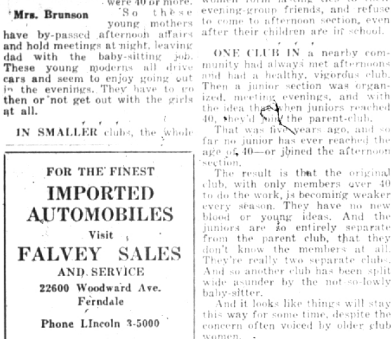
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