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DOWN TO EARTH

Neighbors Share Private Pool

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Recently our garden class at the Community House visited the swimming pool at the home of the Morgan Lawtons at 1906 Kenwood Court.

This couple have realized their safety responsibility and have planned to have it a pleasure for their neighbors, friends and relatives.

The pool is 20 x 40 feet with a generous apron of brickrete made by themselves in a basket weave design which adds to the beauty of the design and inside coloring of the pool. A cabana now being built will be 10 x 26 feet. The swimming pool will become an ice skating rink in the winter. After the ice is about two inches deep, skinned logs are placed around the pool to protect the basic structure against winter cracking. Logs also will protect the edge against skate damage.

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Mrs. Burlingame says the water is retained for the entire season and really could be used another year as it is cleaned and purified constantly. Chemical foot-baths are provided. There is a four foot fence around this pool.

AS FOR THE use of the pool, no person is permitted to swim unless he has signed a release protecting owners against liability. Children can swim there only if accompanied by one of their parents, unless they possess a qualified life saving certificate.

There are specific swimming hours for acquaintances, otherwise the pool is for the use of invited guests.

Next year many families will be adding a pool for their enjoyment. It is very important that they carefully plan their "public relations" to assure themselves that the pool will always remain a pleasure and not a nuisance. Our hats go off to the Lawtons who have endeavored to map out an intelligent, generous approach to this newest addition to their home pleasure.

Look your garden over and where you have a shady, problem spot in your yard have you ever considered planting ferns? There you have an interesting hobby in itself.

IF THE SOIL in the shady location is well drained and rich in humus, you have an ideal spot for ferns. During the hottest cycle of the summer they will appreciate watering. Mother nature generally does a pretty good job of giving them a winter mulch with leaves. Maidenhair ferns are my favorites but because their black stalks are brittle, it is best to plant them

in a sheltered spot or nestled near outcrops of rock or trees. Some folks have contacted me on sterilizing soil. You may place your soil in a baking dish and cook it as long as you would bake a potato. You may pour boiling water over the soil and cover it with burlap, or mix formaldehyde with six parts of water and sprinkle it over the soil, mix into the top layer and let it stand for 24 hours before using.

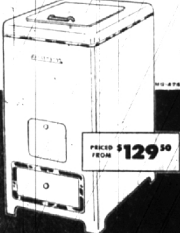
A LOT OF you are nursing along cuttings of coleus on your kitchen window sills. The best results I have seen with these plants, after they are ready for potting with roots, is to plant them in wick watering containers where a constant source of moisture is available for them. If in one container, you place many types of rooted cuttings you will have a glorious effect of color, like an oriental rug. This is the time of year to buy and plant mums. The mums won't harm them when handled with tar paper pots and you can be assured of the color you prefer. Mums are like most varieties of flowers, different varieties come into flower

END
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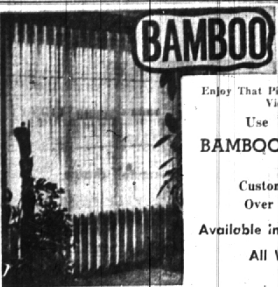
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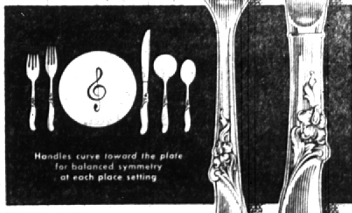
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