

DOWN TO EARTH

Writer Views Orange Culture

By Alice Wessels Burlingame
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric
If Florida has been on your agenda this spring, you have probably concluded you weren't the only Birminghamite who headed south as you constantly see familiar faces.

Coming down through central Florida on route 41 you are constantly amazed by miles and miles of orange groves. These shiny leafy trees appear to be growing out of pure sand.

Let's stop and talk about orange culture to clear up the miracle of growing these lush trees in sand.

ORANGE TREES have been known to live at least 120 years and before that period records were not complete.

Fertilizer is spread around the trees twice a year, with 28 to 32 pounds of fertilizer used per tree. It is a formula known as 6-8-4.

Trees are sprayed four times a year. Leaves seldom fall, and if leaf drop occurs, it is due to faulty culture.

GROVES ARE cared for by commercial teams with the latest machinery who move in and tend the orchards by contract.

Their scientific procedure uses irrigation pipes, sprays and trained personnel to care for crops and move them economically than previous methods.

As you drive south, you see miles of waste land being prepared for more fruit orchards. The pioneer orchard owner interviewed said the citrus area used to be virgin timber.

THIS IS A good time of year to enjoy a pilgrimage to Mansfield, Ohio, where the Kingwood Center is ready with hospitality.

There is a large tulip show, planned and executed by the Dutch government. Countless other unusual bulbs have been planted to study their use on home grounds.

Kingwood Center is our newest arboretum and rapidly becoming a national showplace due to its endowment by Charles King, who gave his home and grounds as a cultural center for his beloved Mansfield.

KINGWOOD CENTER is a musical, dramatic, and horticultural headquarters established for education to make the years of adulthood more enjoyable.

As King's primary interest was gardening, this phase of the program is emphasized, with all plants well labeled and planned for duplication on one's home grounds.

A real loss to gardeners is the untimely death of Louis Bromfield, of Mansfield, nationally known writer and conservationist "of the good soil."

AT THE TIME of my last trip to Kingwood Center, I enjoyed a day with Mr. Bromfield on his farm.

He used multicolor roses for the



TAKING A 12-DAY DELUXE CRUISE to the Caribbean ports of the Netherlands West Indies, Venezuela and Colombia on the "Santa Paula" are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fisher and sons, Richard and David, 2147 Yarmouth, Birmingham.

Birmingham Airman Training in Texas

A/B Monte F. Tittiger has entered the U.S. air force technical training school at Sheppard air force base, near Wichita Falls, Texas. While there, he will prepare for his work as a photo interpretation specialist.

Airman Tittiger, who is the grandson of the F. J. Tittigers of Telegraph road, Birmingham, entered the service Jan. 12.

major part of his field boundaries. These natural fences were eight feet high and eight feet wide. They held back the cattle, encouraged the birds who worked with him to control insects.

He talked to people about gardening "to spark" them to conserve our natural resources.



MONTE F. TITTIGER

Troy Tri-Hi-Y To Attend Meet At Battle Creek

Members of Troy Tri-Hi-Y will attend the state conference Friday and Saturday at Battle Creek. The group will be led by Edwin F. Kirbert, Birmingham YMCA executive secretary.

Leading the discussion on a code of moral standards for girls will be Edwina F. Kirbert, Birmingham YMCA executive secretary. Girls attending will include Ad-damme Akin, Suzanne Hall, An-nette Caza, Betty Kujala and Carol Cooper.

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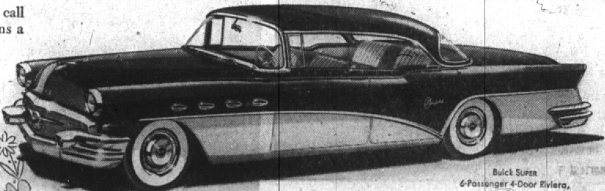
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