



DISCUSSING THE ARRANGEMENTS of May flower baskets, which will be featured at the Ford Rotunda 1956 Flower show, April 8 through 22, are (from left) Mrs. George O. Cutter, 618 Overhill; Mrs. N. W. Berry, 622 Chesterfield, and Mrs. Robert VanderPyl, 384 Lake Park, all of Birmingham. This year's show is based on a "Flowers Internationale" theme.

Stephens Alumnae Elects Officers And Makes Plans

Stephens Alumnae club of Birmingham recently elected new officers, following a business meeting at the home of Mrs. G. C. Waggoner, Jr., on South Hill drive, Bloomfield Hills. They will be installed at the June meeting.

New president will be Mrs. A. D. Gravenhorst of East 14 Mile road, Birmingham. Vice president will be Mrs. W. E. Flanders, Franklin road, Pontiac.

MRS. J. J. BOWER, Witherbee avenue, Troy township was elected secretary-treasurer. Mrs. R. G. Smith, Brooklawn road, Troy township, will be program chairman.

Mrs. G. Arthur Brown, Jr., retiring president, took reservations for the charity bridge planned by the Stephens Alumnae club of Detroit.

Plans were made for the April meeting and will be announced later.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale — Houses" column on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

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DOWN TO EARTH

Dividends Earned on Side Trip

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

An ever-present dividend waiting a garden lover is the side trips while vacationing.

Your writer recently visited the Missouri botanical gardens, founded over 65 years ago in St. Louis by Henry Shaw. The founding date takes us back to the Civil War days.

Our host was Dr. Edgar Anderson, world famous as Shaw gardens director as well as for explorations and introduction of fine plant material to this country.

IN PLANNING his exploration trips, he aims to duplicate the climatic conditions of St. Louis. He has found his most interesting plant material in Bulgaria.

One of the finest introductions has been a large leaf ivy with prominent veining.

It is pleasing to the eye as a ground cover, as it grows approximately the same height and looks like a compact carpet. It is now on the commercial market, known as MBG Bulgarian ivy.

WE VISITED the mausoleum garden in the botanical gardens to see the ivy growing. There in the intimate garden, enclosed by a handsome wrought iron fence, were many formal paths formed by ground pecan shells resembling the tan bark we know in our area.

This enclosed garden was a test plot for rare ivies, and a famous introduction garden for most known varieties of snow drops from all over the world.

They were "happy" as all snow drops flourish when they have a carpet of leaf mold formed by fallen leaves caught by the ivy ground cover. Many of these specimens came directly from Turkey.

THEIR PLANTINGS of water lilies are well known. In the spring pools have tulips for interest. They are followed by interesting foliage plants to give a good back-

ground for the rare water lilies. They have a Linnean house, named after the famous Swedish botanist. They have planted yucca against the brick, so in July the setting profits from tall stalks of white, waxy yucca flowers.

Sweet gum trees join the hundreds of unusual trees on the grounds. You enjoy them especially because leaves are star-shaped, and fruit dangles from the branches in the fall like Christmas tree ornaments.

THE ORCHID collection has over 50,000 specimens. One fine practical area for dirt gardeners to study is the economic garden, where new introductions are tried so that their adaptability to the St. Louis area can be observed. A fine target for our Detroit garden center.

The step at the Missouri botanical gardens was too short and in the future a study trip will be on the agenda to observe rare plants from all over the world.

To chat with the plantmen will assure more knowledge to enrich practical gardening years ahead.

When you go to St. Louis, do plan on time at this world famous garden.

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