

SMILE A MINUTE

President Taft described this as the best poker story he ever heard: An ex-governor of Idaho was playing euchre with Isaac Isaacson. "If I were playing poker," said Isaacson, "I'd bet \$50 on this hand."

"Well," says the governor, "you will give me a queen I'll bet you \$100 on my hand."

Isaacson gave the governor a queen, meantime smiling patronizingly on the four kings which he held. When the betting was over Isaacson laid down his four kings

and reached for the money. "Softly," admonished the governor, revealing four aces and scowling sorrowfully at the statesman, then asked: "My governor, I don't mind the money, but I wish you would tell me what in the hell you wanted with that queen?"

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WEARING REGULATION clothing of knickers and sweaters are (from left) Sue Purvis and Sue Rippingille, summer students at Interlochen.

Two Birmingham Sues Study at Interlochen

Two Birmingham Sues have a lot in common besides names—they have a great interest in music—and they're studying this summer at the National Music Camp at Interlochen. They are Sue Purvis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Purvis, 1447 Henrietta, and Sue Rippingille, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rippingille, 808 Colonial, both of Birmingham. Both are flutists and as a minor at camp they have taken up new instruments—and also conducting. Sue Purvis is minoring in bassoon. The girls are also taking swim-

DOWN TO EARTH

Gardeners Give Best Lessons

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In this Birmingham area we have some mighty fine growers who do a fine job of plant culture. They have a good sense of design, and are very generous in sharing their knowledge with other plant lovers.

In my evaluation scale, the best lessons are to be taught from visiting with other gardeners and not from studying books.

The other day I was chatting with "Gus" Weir, who enjoys her backyard plot, and especially dahlias. She says that she only pinches a portion of the buds off her dahlias to force large-sized blossoms because she has found that she welcomes the smaller flowers. They combine with the larger flowers in a bowl arrangement to lend

balance to the finished effect.

AFTER CUTTING the dahlia, she finds the "keeping power" better is she sears the stalk end with a match, rather than pounding the end of the stem for more assimilation of water.

The Everett H. Wells' home has been occupied nearly a year on Bennington road in Rudgate. Their home grounds are well-planned with wall structures where needed.

Mrs. Burlingame Their site is up on a hill, and I like the American flag they fly in the rear garden, which can be seen for some distance. You really become very proud of that flag and all that it stands for after you have had a passport.

THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED a terrace off the exit from their lush family room. The terrace is circular and has a diameter of approximately 28 feet. It has an apple tree of mature size to one side within the terrace floor. At its

base myrtle grows, with a low bluestone retaining wall for the slight elevation of the myrtle bed.

Around the entire terrace structure, except on the garage boundary, they have a wall of regular brick, painted a deep tone of gray. I counted five bricks high for the elevation of the terrace wall.

The accents of color are well introduced by green and yellow aluminum furniture, a table with a yellow umbrella, plus pots of coral pink geraniums on the wall ledge, as well as in pots in a stunning white wall motif on the grey-painted brick garage wall. This motif was a hedge of Fashion roses which matched the geraniums.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, this family feel that Birmingham is the place to be in the summertime, with a bonus of fine friends to enjoy the setting. The next door neighbor is the John Shenefields, and you have enjoyed a tour of their garden before. I couldn't help but admire the hedge of coral bells which swing and sway in the breeze outside their low picture window. It assures them of a maximum length flower cycle, and is a foil for the ruby-throated humming birds as they visit for their treat of nectar.

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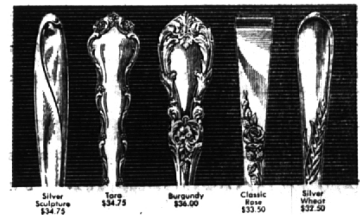
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