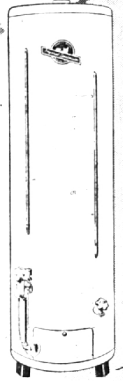


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Visits Noted Rose Hybridizer

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
 Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

ENGLAND: Last week this column left you in the Wisley Gardens, the famous "teaching" gardens of the Royal Horticulture Society. This garden specializes in the problems of the practical gardeners of their members, as well as a teaching program for the future curators of famous gardens all over the world.

A stunning hedge was the European. Hornbeams which will be dense and have deep veined, interesting leaves.

Copper beeches are well shown here, and so well chosen for our yards, with a bronze leaf. They will be slow growing.

ANOTHER FINE piece of material was a pink flowering cherry which was only twelve feet wide and grew tall like a telephone pole.

Several ornamental plantings would be stunning as a backdrop for a perennial bed.

Their rock gardens were stunning, because they used granite chip-pings for a ground cover.

By this technique the soil was kept moist and cool during the hot season, weeds were kept down, and the appearance was downright neat.

A real thrill today was to visit Mr. A. Norman, one of the foremost hybridizers of rare roses in the world. To arrive at him it was necessary to travel many, many miles into the interior. On each side of the quiet lane leading to his home was a hedge row six feet high.

MY HOST WAS in his front yard waiting, by appointment, to visit the "study from America". In appearance he resembled Sherlock Holmes. As the time unfolded I realized that he was a true detective, seeking out new roses to meet the critical eye of the rose lovers of today.

In a lean-to greenhouse we saw rose seedlings planted in small flats January 24, and by this date a large portion were in flower. The most outstanding rose in this test plot was one which had Fuchsia as one of the parents. He felt as though this specimen would be a prize.

Carefully, the outstanding seedling will be nurtured and then tested on a rugged soil, to see how it will stand a field test. Fuchsia is his prominent rose on the market this year at home. Perhaps this new cross I saw today in a small flat will be the "rave" of the next future.

MR. NORMAN COULDN'T say enough for our patent law in "the States" which encourage explorers in the field of hybridization.

It was interesting to see how he cuts a sturdy piece of a multiflora rose, dips it in a hormone powder, and then inserts the stick in the ground to root. After it is well rooted he gives it support, crafts his favorite stock on to it, and has a tree bush. He prefers a sturdy bush around seven feet high.

Multiflora roses are the ones we use for traffic control when we

nounced that tea and biscuits were ready. As we chatted about his recognition in the rose world, he told about the joy which was his in a lifetime dedicated to exploration in the field of horticulture.

have a sunny location. Due to its spreading habits it is better to have nearly an acre on your site where they are used.

MR. NORMAN gathers his seed hips of this rose category. He places them in a container of damp peat moss.

After a couple months of the container being exposed to the cold, winter weather, they are brought in and the seeds removed for planting in a flat or open flower bed later. You will have enough seedlings for a city, if you try to do it.

Mr. Norman believes that the best scented rose is End Harkness. Two roses I saw and liked especially were Red Ensign, which had intense dark blood red cabbage roses, and La Jolla, which had a flower like Peace but more pink shows in the petals.

After the first few minutes of the interview, Mrs. Norman an-



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A plant sale will be held Monday at the annual June picnic of the Bloomfield Hills branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden association, Ray Henstock, director of the Detroit Garden Center, will speak on "Annuals—Their Planting and Care."

Mrs. Howard Flint of Rolling Acres Farm, Walnut Lake, will be hostess for the event which is scheduled for noon. Members of the Osage branch are to be guests.

The Bloomfield Hills group recently won two state awards, one for having the best flower show of the year in the state and the other for sponsoring the formation of the Osage branch.

At the annual state meeting of the WNF&G, held recently in Birmingham, Mrs. Howard Staggall, a member of the Bloomfield Hills branch was elected corresponding secretary.

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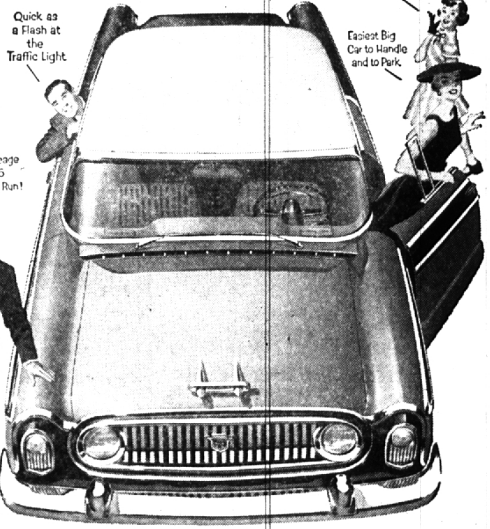
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