

DOWN TO EARTH

Garden Should Not Be a Burden

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This is the time to evaluate your home grounds and find out if they measure up to your standards. Number one question to be considered is whether or not the finished result equals the time you are investing in this project.

Perhaps if it has become a burden you need to push back some flower beds, have ground covers growing at the edge of shrub plantings, these can be trimmed at the lawn edge when the lawn is mowed, to avoid hand clipping.

If you are a flower fancier, plan to have a projecting peninsula of colorful flowers near your enclosed porch or terrace. Allow the background color to be given by well chosen flowering shrubs. Use a ratio of seven evergreens to three flowering shrubs if you want the optimum for a perfect twelve months out of the year effect.

black soil always available in the early fall to enrich hungry flower beds. The Japanese in their gardens give a great deal of thought to the approach of their enclosed gardens, then plan a surprise detail to greet you immediately.

YOU COULD APPLY this principle, giving special attention to your rear yard approach from the driveway or around the side of the house. Have an interesting gate, or a series of stepping stones to invite a stroll. Use interesting plants at each side of the

entrance, such as azaleas for half sun, tuberose begonias for three-quarters shade, or floribundas of the same variety for full sun. Start step by step to make each area of your yard a "thing of beauty", going slowly from challenge to challenge to inject real personality into the details.

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CUTTING OUT SHAMROCKS to be used as decorations for the luncheon fashion show are members of the West Beverly Hostess club from left) Mrs. John Harling, Mrs. S. I. Whittlesey and Mrs. Glenn Freeman. Fashions will be presented by Milgrim's following the 12:30 p.m. luncheon, March 15, at the Birmingham Country club. Proceeds will go to the West Beverly Sewing club and other charitable organizations.

REALIZING THAT there are many months when a completely filled flower bed has ragged cycles, designers are suggesting that cutting flowers be raised in secondary locations. Remember that a peaceful garden, which is "too busy" and is planned from the very beginning to have a minimum maintenance.

With trees on the property plan to have the lawn end abruptly at the tree base at the exact level of the adjoining lawn. This is a trick to give your property more of a feeling of spaciousness.

FERTILIZING the lawn at least three times a season will mean less grass seed to be purchased and a lower bill for weed control. Those grass roots will be so happy with fertilizer that they will race to form a solid mat.

As you rake the lawn this spring, be sure to collect roughage in baskets for your compost pile. You can mound it behind shrubs, if your property hasn't an appropriate location for a compost pile. If you sprinkle these baskets full of "stuff" with a little soil and then a decomposing agent, you will have



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Marshall Talks To Soroptimists

Birmingham's Soroptimist club will hear S. L. A. Marshall speak on "Formosa" at their dinner meeting tonight at Devon Cables. Marshall is a well known military critic, editorial writer, author and expert on foreign relations. His methods of battlefield history research during combat have been adopted as standard operating procedure for the armed services. Author of a best seller, "Blitzkrieg", Gen. Marshall has received many decorations, including the legion of merit and bronze star. Currently he is military analyst for the Detroit News.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all new—the society editor about them.



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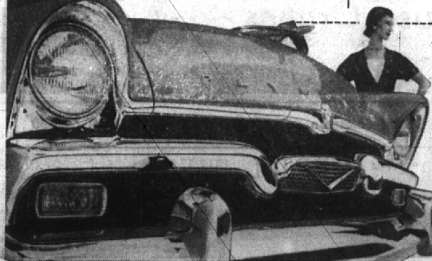
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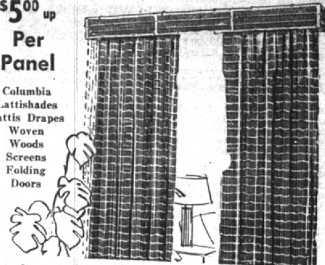
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