

DOWN TO EARTH

B'ham Pair Make Botany a Hobby

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Most of our full time scientists will tell you that many of the finest contributions in a given field of science have been worked out by laymen with an extensive interest as an avocation, have penetrated to great depths to solve riddles.

In Birmingham we have a husband and wife team who are very interested in botany, the category of ferns especially. They are the Dale J. Hagenahs, of 164 Westchester.

They have been interested in locating the heart's tongue fern, common in the British Isles. Until 1954 it had only been found and reported near Georgian Bay and in some areas near Syracuse, N. Y. in this country.

After studying the requirements of the fern, they began to explore for this rare fern with the interest others have used as they sought rare minerals. Dr. Marion T. Hall of Cranbrook found the first specimen recorded in Michigan near a limestone outcrop close to Pickford, Mich. Hagenah, who is in automotive work, serves on the botanical com-



Mrs. Burlingame

mittee at Cranbrook. He has purchased many scientific papers on the subject in connection with Cranbrook and the University of Michigan.

For his research comes as the result of unlimited field trips across the country. Samples of plant material are returned to his desk for mounting, spores are used to reproduce specific species, and microscopic study makes the plants come to life for minute study.

Rare spores are planted in glass covered jars, and the lids are only

raised when too much water gathers on the glass.

MRS. HAGENAH has fine African violets which she has grown from leaves, and a portion of them from seed. She prefers the use of plastic containers for best results because the leaves which hit the rim of the pots do not soften.

She prizes a dark purple violet plant from her mother's collection of 17 years ago. She likes to root the African violet leaves in vermiculite.

For the last three years, this plant lover has had six orchids on a table in a southwest window. In the summer time she places

them on the north side of the house to care for themselves and they only have the water they would receive from routine lawn watering.

SHE IS REWARDED with beautiful flowers every year. I notice she places a large pot on the outside of her planted pots to keep her orchids more moist. Dr. Hall taught her this trick.

Among their favorite books to guide them in this hobby are: "Pioneering With Wild Flowers," by George Aiken, and "Our Wild Orchids," by Morris and Eames. The nicest part about this Birmingham couple is that they think the nicest flowers growing in their block are their neighbors' children.

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MRS. EDWARD RIBOLIN

**Mr. and Mrs. Ribolin
Honeymoon In Florida**

Chantilly lace was worn by Ruth Carole Smith when she exchanged vows and rings with Edward Ribolin at 4 p.m., Feb. 25, in the Cedarholm chapel of Kirk-in-the-Hills. The Rev. Harold C. Dewindt read the rites before 150 wedding guests.

Scallops of the chantilly lace fell over the white tulle skirt and the fitted bodice was fashioned with a sweetheart neckline. A lace cap held in place her fingertip veil and she carried white camellias, stephanotis and ivy.

Ruth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Smith, 5735 Euclid drive, Walnut Lake. Her husband's parents are the Carl Ribolinos of Walnut Lake road.

MATRON of honor, Mrs. Karl Rhodes, was gowned in ballerina length pink crystalite with a matching headband and brief veil. She carried a bouquet of deep pink carnations and ivy.

Karen Smith was her sister's bridesmaid. She wore a pale blue crystalite frock of ballerina length with a velvet headband and carried pale pink carnations.

Robert Seldon was best man. Seating the guests were Roger Tyrrell and Davis Smith, brother of the bride.

For her daughter's wedding and reception, following in the church parlors, Mrs. Smith wore a blue dress of pure silk with matching hat. Edward's mother chose a navy jacket dress with a white hat. Both mothers had pink camellias pinned to their shoulders.

After a two-week wedding trip to Daytona Beach, Fla., the couple will make their home in Royal Oak.

Have You Met . . .

The residents of Tilbury road? They are Mr. and Mrs. Edgar D. Patrick and children, Gail, 16, David, 9, and Eve, 19, a sophomore at Albion college. Patrick is owner of the Livonia moving and storage company in Detroit and member of the North West Lions club. A member of the Tuesday Musicals, Woman's Association and Volunteers of America, Mrs. Patrick studied piano and voice at the Detroit Conservatory. PTAs and parents clubs are her greatest interest.

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