

**DOWN TO EARTH**  
Plan Garden for Entire Family

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

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Many of our readers are developing new properties this season and want a guide as to the steps they should take to assure a gradual satisfactory plan for their land.

Number one... consider every member of the family in the ultimate plan and their needs. It is also important to keep the plan simple, unless there is a genuine interest in gardening by at least one member of the family.

IF YOU enjoy planning, take some shelf paper and draw an outline of your property and then divide the area into five foot squares. You will want to plan on a terrace adjacent to the house and make it big for complete family use. This is especially important if you have children. They will be able to play outdoors earlier in the dewy mornings if they can center their activities on the terrace.

Put the center of the back of your home, close to the structure, stand there, and decide what you like to see and what you want to hide on adjacent property. Be thoughtful and plan for privacy from a neighbor for your terrace area.

Don't plan to completely "change" your yard as "styles have changed." Australian pines are good view blockers. The Xanthoxylon, known as King Cherry is a fast growing shrub which is dense. The Zebell honeysuckle is

also a dense, fast grower. Place your shrubs five feet apart and three feet from your line. Place the pines 12-15 feet apart.

When you are preparing the land, an equipment is leveling it off, if possible plan to develop some of the area rolling and not extremely level.

Take a hose and plan your flower beds before putting in your grass seed and secure line at the hardware store to mark off the plan for guidance. Gather up lots of sticks to use for the marking off of shrub and tree locations.

REMEMBER not to make the curves "too busy" in your design, the curved lines should be gradual. Where you have shade from trees and the house do not plan on flower beds in that location if you can help it.

On the west coast, I liked their "habit" of developing a path in their garden area and it could be planned near the lawn border. This path always provided an invitation visually for a stroll. These paths should be four feet wide. You could use as a surface many materials. I would surely advise a barrier strip for ease of lawn maintenance. The surface of the path could be sawdust, pea gravel, ground brick or tan bark. The most handsome I saw were cement with coarse sand or gravel on the surface to provide a texture, and others were attractive when they were macadam.

the highways and byways! Keep your eyes open, head up, drive carefully, obey the traffic laws, and never, never cross the yellow line.

If it really is the other fellow's fault, you don't want to contribute negligence to deprive you or your loved ones of money which may be needed for medical bills or property damage; and more importantly...

THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN.

*if you're like me.*

**Says the Barrister**

You try to drive carefully and respect the speed laws and don't take big risks—but you can remember taking some little chances—like slipping through on a yellow light, jay walking when you were in a hurry, or cutting a few corners such as failing to come to a full stop at a stop street.

Something like little white lies on your own conscience, you can get away with them some of the time, and if you are lucky these little risks will only bring an occasional traffic ticket or two. But what happens if you are involved in a serious collision?

People who take small chances may be guilty of "contributory negligence." This very old legal doctrine is followed by Michigan courts. Since the days of the common law, the English and most American courts have held that in order to place liability on a person who has been negligent, the injured party must be free from fault.

In other words, your negligence or carelessness must not contribute to the accident. So even though the other fellow may have been more at fault, if you were in that yellow light or failed to come to a complete stop, or were jay walking, it may cost you money.

THE COURTS won't compare degrees of fault. The law will not attempt to adjust loss between wrongdoers.

So watch out when you travel

**WHY?**

"Between the Devil and Deep Blue Sea?"

The seam of wooden ships nearest the waterline, longest and most difficult to repair, was known as "the devil's seam." Seamen working over the side at caulking it were "between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea."

Another expression implying biggorheads, "to be at biggorheads," was also nautical. Log-geared was a heavy piece of iron on a long handle. Heated, it was used to melt pitch—and as deadly weapons it settled differences of opinion between sailors, he with the harder head winning.

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