

DOWN TO EARTH

# Happy With Your House Plants?

This is a good time of year to review your house plants. Are you satisfied with their appearance, and do they play the role in your home decoration which you have chosen for them?

You can plan on your house plants to give you that "plus" decorative touch for your rooms. They respond very well to "loving care." They want to be given the right location for their cultural needs. When you have decorative plants in flower, you may be assured that they want a sunny location.

**PLANTS WANT** to have their leaves clean in order to breathe properly. The leaves of a plant are their lungs. The upper surface of the leaves has primary importance, although beneath the leaves are very important breathing cells. Large leaves can readily be cleaned with one of the new sprays which clean as well as act as an insecticide.

When you have a plant which is a vine, cover the soil surface with a aluminum foil. Mrs. Burlingame and dunk the leaves in an inverted fashion in a tumbler of water, mild detergent and rinse the plant in plain water of the same temperature. There you are... a job done which you have been delaying until you found a day with some extra minutes.

**PLANTS ARE LIKE** babies. They get along on a meager feeding when very young, but when they begin to grow they need a supplementary feeding. All right, give your plants, without fail, a good meal twice a month. There are lots of packaged fertilizers on the market adapted for house plants.

**DO NOT OVERLOOK** the new angle of planting on giving your house plant a "febrile" feeding once a month. Research has shown us that they have a favorable reaction within five minutes of the treat, and they certainly look better. I can see it now. Guests coming for dinner and "I just must allow e-

outside toward the inside of the pot.

DO AVOID THE planting of

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I haven't done this stunt with African violets, due to the hairy location of their cultural needs. The foliar feeding is applied by syringe with the mixture being half the strength you use with surface feeding.

Aeration, or you may call it cultivating, is important to allow air toward the roots and break up the packed soil due to the watering schedule. Take a fork or paring knife and go around the edge of the pot with a stroke from the

house plants in copper or brass containers, as experience has shown that there is a chemical reaction between the metal and soil which causes the leaves to become smaller and smaller, and the plant itself takes on an unhealthy appearance. You may aid the situation if you are the proud owner of such a container by inserting a transparent Saran lining to separate the soil and container. Many copper and brass containers on the market are

now coming out with plastic liners. Keep your "appetite" for house plants at the correct ratio for the time you have to give them, then enjoy them as a result of knowing the proper care they need.

### Scout Troop B-30 Goes on Klondike

About 15 scouts from Troop B, the Lake recreation area, Fred Bertsch, scoutmaster, and Robert Loudon, assistant scout master, accompanied the boys. This week the scouts visited Cranbrook planetarium with Hugh Aitchley, scout advancement chairman, in charge.

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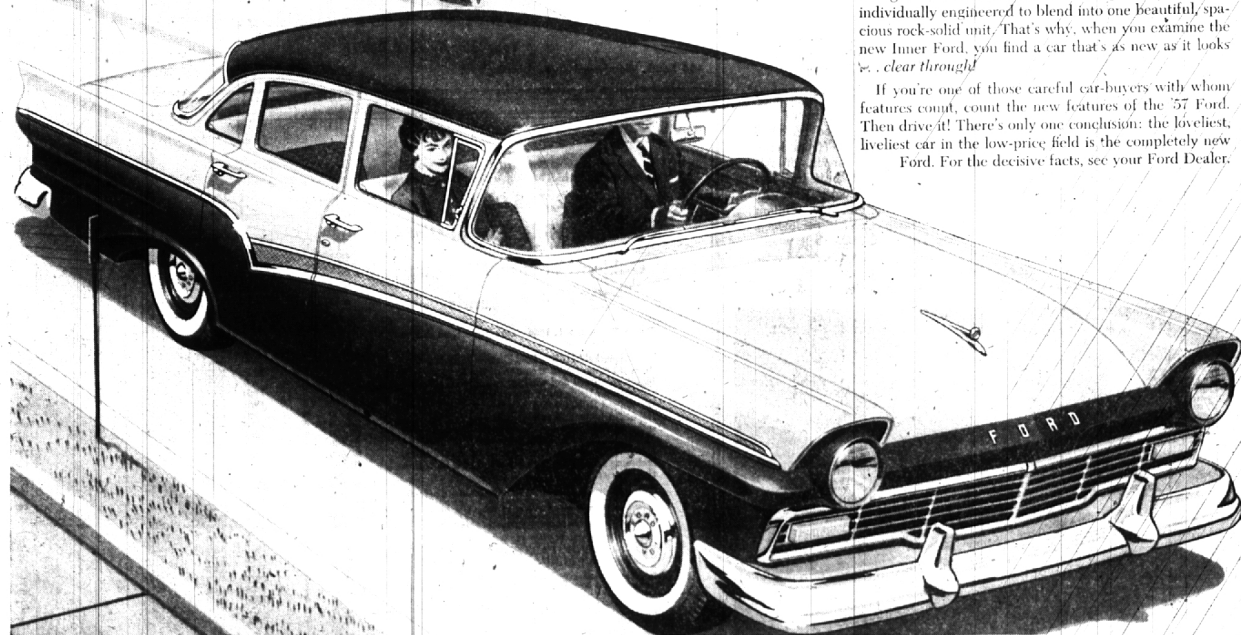
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