

Forced Boughs Increase Humidity

Most homes this time of year could stand more humidity for the good health of the occupants. One way to meet the situation is to have several vases filled with boughs which you have forced.

This is the time of year to cut branches like Red Osier dogwood, barberry, red bud, flowering quince, purple leaf plum, branches from all types of fruit trees, tamarack, forsythia or Nanking cherry.

Cut your branches off on a sunny day when the temperature is rising. After a rain is also a good time.

FOR BEST RESULTS, you may wrap the branches in damp burlap or place them in a bucket of water. Syringe them with warm



Mrs. Burlingame

(Osier) lighted with spellights. They are native to Michigan, and along our secondary roads you see many groupings near the highways, a fall for the bird kingdom.

MANY HOUSE PLANT fanciers like to select an artistic tea wagon and use it for the display of their choicest plants. It can be wheeled around for the best light during the daytime and can act as a room divider for an interior decorative accent.

Don't allow plants to develop for a new home with a planter near a door for house plants. They will not prosper where a draft hits the leaves, especially at the floor level. This fine detail works very well in tropical climates.

When the leaves of your indoor

plants are variegated, this is an indication they need more light than a plain leaf of the same variety.

DO AVOID PLACING plants on the window sills during the coldest weather, as the cold glass chills them. Their leaves will talk back by having brown tips.

When you feed your plants, be sure not to do the task on a dull day, due to the cell condition of the leaves.

You will have best results in your planters by having the plants remain in their clay pots. Then fill up the planter with Canadian peat to give the effect of soil. This technique will make it easier to replace the sick ones, and you can change your selections of plants at will.

DISEASE WILL NOT spread as easily when the plants are in their own pots. It will be easy to remove the pots and wash the leaves by a "quick dunk" in detergent fol-



You don't know much about assessments and less about the tax assessor.

But you do sometimes wonder how your local assessor arrives at the figure placed on your property and what sort of laws govern him.

As you give your plants "loving care" they mean a lot to you as they live, breathe, save, fight, love, marry, have babies . . . and die.

In our neighborhood some of us just got an increase in our property valuations so there was a sudden interest in matters of local government and taxation. We went to see our township supervisor who explained just how local assessment works.

Each year the township supervisor or the appointed township or city assessor must complete the assessment roll by the first Monday in March.

This is merely a list of all property in his tax area and contains a description of the property and the name and address of the owner.

After inspecting the property, the assessor enters opposite each piece of property the assessed valuation for tax purposes.

HE CAN'T just pick this figure from thin air—the law states that this amount must be based on cash value, which is the usual sale price at the place and time of assessment.

In arriving at this amount he must be bound by his best judg-

ment, but only after he has considered the advantages and disadvantages of location, age, condition of buildings and other factors.

The State of Michigan has published a manual (at \$4.50 per copy) as a guide in determining these factors and for the purpose of unifying assessment practices throughout the state.

Each year the township supervisor or the appointed township or city assessor must complete the assessment roll by the first Monday in March.

THE ROLL is then submitted to a board of review which in townships is an elected body and, in most cities, is appointed. This board meets on dates specified by state law or city charter.

Township boards of review and those of most cities and villages, must meet on the Tuesday and Wednesday after the first Monday in March to review the assessment roll.

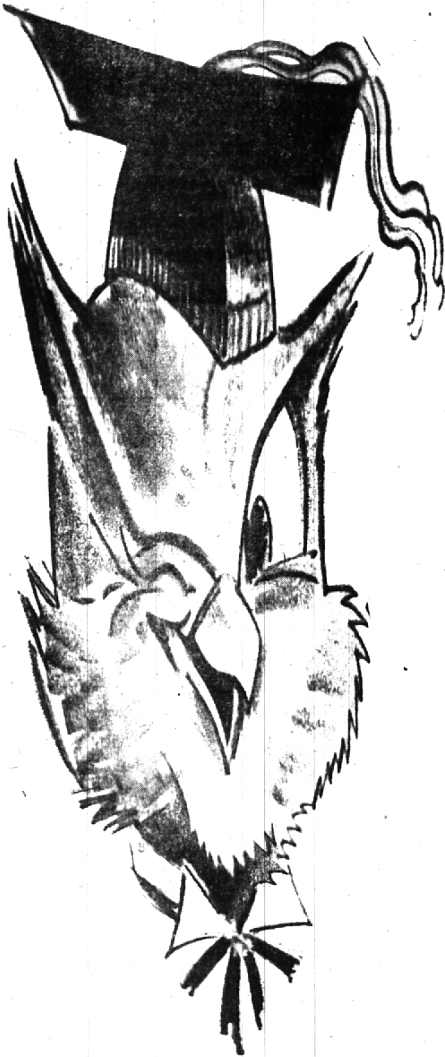
They must meet again on the second Monday and Tuesday in March to hear complaints of property owners. You must appear at this meeting if you wish to contest the assessed value of your property.

I'M GLAD I checked because I feel better about my own assessment after finding out how our local officials handle this tough job.

But if I do want to question my assessment, I'll mark my calendar to remind myself that I have a date to appear before the board of review to state my case.

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