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DOWN TO EARTH By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Developed Grounds Without Grass

Many gentlemen gardeners of our "metropolitan" Birmingham area follow this column and frequent comments come from them. I am going to tell them especially about one of the most beautiful developed home grounds I have ever seen and there wasn't a blade of grass. After mentally adding up the amount we had paid for fertilizer, lawn seed, weed eradicator, plus weekly lawn cutting service this last month, I was really ready to "buy the sample".

Dr. Hugh Stalker lives at 258 Radnor Circle in Grosse Pointe. He is well known throughout Michigan as a gardener and his years of service with the Michigan Horticultural Society. In other words he knows the answers when he places plant material on property. Now follow me to his home grounds.

THE LOT is pie shaped and is 50' wide in front and 146' wide in the rear. The home is a one story colonial and the brick exterior has been painted a pleasing shade of dark green. A generous circular driveway is in front and takes the guest right up to the door-step. All of the ground surface is myrtle. Yew



border the moon shaped driveway, lending accent in the Spring with the gold tips of new growth. There in front you see magnolia, wisteria, an apple tree, and many specimens of various varieties of yew. White clematis are near the entrance. The motto of Dr. Stalker is to only have flowering material in front which is white, a stunning goal for a green painted brick home.

Going around to one side of the home, you enter an Italian styled patio with a high brick wall with lush black grille work in abundance, rare and well selected in design, sculpturing is displayed.

Along the garden side of the structure Dr. Stalker has con-



Now out to the rear garden. There you see a series of winding cement paths and their design gives you the feeling of going off into distance into a land of plant wonderland. No grass. Each side of the paths you see fine specimens of trees and shrubs, evergreens, and at their base all kinds of ground covers, phlox, mortensia, jack in the pulpits, and a collection of ferns. Dogwoods, magnolia have been well selected for fine varieties. Dr. Stalker specializes in clematis as they are displayed throughout this garden, grown up tree poles with bark on them. All they need is four to six hours of sun a day.

THERE IS an open sun spot and Dr. Stalker grows roses with their flower bed being covered with myrtle. This acts as a mulch and no special watering is necessary. No spray is used on the roses, as the birds, attracted to this haven in hordes eat the insects.

Along one side of the garden is an arch to the other side of the house with espaliered plant selections along a pleached pathway forming a tunnel, about thirty feet long.

Night lighting is an important part of the garden planning and a perfect foil for hospitality.

ALONG THE garden side of the structure Dr. Stalker has con-

I CHECKED at our local sheriff's office the other day and found out that in Michigan those who are found not guilty after trial or released without charge may get their records back if they ask for them.

But what about the individual who is charged with a crime, booked at the station, fingerprinted, investigated and then released without charge. Do the records of an innocent person remain in the police criminal files?

If an individual wants the records after the 60-day period has expired he must file a petition with the court in the county where the arrest took place. The judge may or may not return them depending on the facts surrounding the request.

If you want to keep your slate clean ask for your records right away.

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Owner: Hardly believe it myself. But this big, beautiful Super 88 gave me more for my money than any other car I looked at... and cost way less than you'd guess.

Friend: You've got a lot of car there, all right.

Owner: Wait 'til you see it from where I'm sitting. This upholstery is real leather. And the floors have door-to-door carpeting front and rear.

Friend: How much extra did that cost?

Owner: Not one cent. Standard equipment—just like the safety-padded dash, the foam rubber seats, and the dual exhausts. And, of course, the Rocket Engine*. I'm telling you, this Olds has everything. Want to try it?

Friend: Move over. I've been thinking about an Olds myself.

Owner: I'll bet you'll get one after you drive it! Let's go!

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WHY?

Orange Blossoms At Weddings?

Orange trees bear flowers, buds and ripe fruit at the same time; their limbs are never barren, so they become symbolic of fertility. Orange blossom ornaments worn by Saracen brides were brought to Europe by returning Crusaders, were worn at medieval weddings to indicate hope the bride would have many children.

The blossoms we use in ceremonies today express hope the marriage will be productive. So do the time-honored rice and time-worn jokes with which we shower the bridal couple.

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FLORISTS