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DOWN TO EARTH

African Violet Expert Tells How It's Done

Here's an unidentified quotation that appeals to me: "There are two books which should be kept in every home and read by every member of the family. The Bible, which tells of the miracles of God, and the seed catalogue, which proves them."

FOR THE SECOND time I have visited Mrs. Isouise Sewell, 288 Goodfield Court who enjoys her arduous interest of growing African violets.



Mrs. Burlingame

She recently won many honors for her first entrance in competition for the Border Cities African Violet show. Mrs. Sewell discovered that these points of grooming were stressed: the plant must be symmetrical in leaf formation, the foliage must be clean and unmarked, there must not be any holes in the leaf pattern where leaves had been removed, the flower placement should be all over and not spotty on only certain sides of the pot, only one crown in a pot and no suckers, the neck must not show, there can't be any half "spout" blossoms.

MRS. SEWELL'S first prize was taken by white pride. If I had been giving the ribbon, I would have crowned Feery which is a plant with no notches on the heavily veined leaves. The flowers on Feery are single, deep purple, two inch beauties.

Mrs. Sewell has more than two hundred African violets, which require constant attention. I asked her if she ever got to go on a vacation with her husband. She has that problem under control as she has joined the African Violet Society herself so he is as proud as she is of the activity in the fluorescent greenhouse adjacent to their dining room.

HERE IS some of the routine: Direct sun must not shine directly on the leaves; chilling has to be watched as it will cause smaller flowers and leaf damage. Plants need to have their leaves washed, which means keeping them out of the light until they are dried. They are only watered when the soil is not damp to the finger touch. Every some of the plants need watering. It takes about an hour and a half per day to give these prizes their needed care.

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Yes, it comes in blood wood.

START PERKING. Gardeners, put on that old coat, fill a bucket with fertilizer, and with your trowel spread it in a circle around all of your trees and shrubs. Where you have beds of perennials just toss "a lot" on the area, so that with the spring rains your garden will be ready to give you spring residents.

Apr. 3, 1958 THE BIRMINGHAM "ECCENTRIC" 7-D

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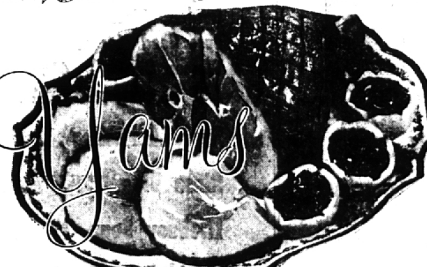
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