

DOWN TO EARTH

Much Beauty, No Passport Needed

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

That "glad to be alive feeling" can be yours if you can arrange to hit the highway in Michigan and enjoy motoring and loitering in the upper counties of Michigan.

Your writer recently attended the annual meeting of the National Farm and Garden association at Mackinac Island with the group convening at the Grand hotel. The

splendor of the "largest hotel veranda", plus the view of the harbor with the profile of The Bridge combined for a memory of beauty right here in Michigan, where you do not have to negotiate for a passport. Guests from other lands couldn't help but have another fine American beauty spot to catalogue away in their experiences.

Mrs. H. Earl Hanson was the general chairman of the annual meeting and we court her as one of our local celebrities. An outstanding speaker was Nancy Williams, who reported on her recent visit on the backroads of the World Health Organization. It was a keen report, filled with heart-stirring stories of health conditions. They were gathered by an observer who went to far places bobbing along on a series of jeep excursions.

TWO RESEARCH reports have come to my attention. First, it has been shown by comparative growing plots that those which receive prayer for their ultimate good development far surpass those plots which have not had special prayers. The second report comes from England, Dr. T. C. N. Singh, head of the department of botany of Annamalai University, Southern India, has found after eight years of research that music excites plants to make them grow faster. "For instance," he says, "the sound of an electric bell can excite seeds of rice to germinate several hours earlier than normal. One experiment showed rice which had been treated with classical music produced 50 per cent more than a similar crop without an advantage. Recorded violin music broadcast to standing tobacco plants resulted in a similar yield increase."

I hope local hi fi fans will control their music volume. Repeatedly I have told you how much fun it is to be interested in horticulture. Perhaps even more interesting facets will tease us on to more research in this area. We know that horticulture is a proven

aid for those who are mentally and physically ill.

AT YOUR house, maybe you have a hunting dog that is unable to remove his fur coat these hot days. The result is that he burrows holes seeking a cool spot, among your choicest plants. You may like to follow my method of control. I give Ginnie plenty of water, then place stones the size of grapefruit around plants which I don't want dug up. So if you visit our garden, do know that I am not growing stores.

By this time you should have all of your spring flowering shrubs pruned. This is the time. Also, you may wish to divide and replace your choice iris. If you had several clumps which did not flower, it might be due to planting too deep (they just wish to have the top of the rhizomes covered with soil and plant them at least 12" apart). For best results, plant your iris in full sun, although they will accept up to half shade.

LEGAL NOTICE

Forbes S. Hancall, Atty. Brigs Bldg., Birmingham, Michigan 72-755

STATE OF MICHIGAN - The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 4th day of June, 1959.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Eva Coleman, Deceased.

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