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DOWN TO EARTH

Stop Procrastinating Plant Those Crocuses

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Each season in the garden program is known for its special garden projects and when you receive this issue of The Eccentric you should stop your procrastinating and get all of those bulbs in the ground right away!

If you are a homemaker who looks out on a stretch of lawn as you work at your sink, give yourself a treat of at least 12 crocuses planted in the lawn near the window to give you a welcome greeting for spring.

2060. I just take an edger, part the turf and slip in a crocus bulb right side up.

This is also the season to plant deciduous trees, the ones which drop their leaves. The Washington Hawthorn is the best of the hawthornes with its flat clusters of white flowers in the spring and its bright red fruit in the fall. As it is a dense tree, you will like to use it to screen out views which bother you. It is about six feet from the ground and extends up to 20 feet.

MANY OF US are spraying our broadleaf evergreens with will-proof which will prevent a winter browning of the leaves. The spray is a latex substance which seals in the water of the leaf tissues. It is the high winds which cause leaves to lose their water, this is known as winter burn when the leaves turn brown due to this cause.

By the way, cotton gauze wrapped around fruit trees and other trees attractive to the rabbit brigade will keep the damage to the minimum. If gauze is wrapped one inch under the ground around the trunk, it will keep field mice from the trunk.

RECENTLY AT the American Horticultural Council meeting John Ott was cited for his contribution in the field of time-lapse photography.

The lessons he has uncovered with plants has added further knowledge to amaze the horticulturists. Many of you have enjoyed his productions in the Disney programs where you might see a pumpkin eventually into a pumpkin in a matter of minutes.

MR. OTT HAS uncovered many thought-provoking premises in his book, "My Ivory Cellar." "If mental illness and certain nervous disorders respond to drugs, they must be associated in some way with the chemistry of the body. If this is so and light can influence body chemistry, then this theory of light might also affect the mental as well as the physical well being of an individual."

With time-lapse photography the author found that each category of plant and animal had its own pattern of development. As an illustration an apple grows in the daytime and relaxes at night so that when time-lapse photography is used the effect on the screen is like blowing up a balloon in a split second. A picture showed that "the response of petals in opening and closing is not a mechanical nature but is tied up into the principles of photo chemistry," which is dependent upon the light factor.

HE BELIEVES that plants benefit by light entering through the leaves and that animals (including human beings) benefit by their light entering their bodies through their eyes. Therefore the glass in sun-



Mrs. Burlingame

4-B. THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Nov. 5, 1959

glasses would provide a limiting factor unless they would allow ultraviolet rays to filter into the lens. The book is filled with limitless stories of how light in its health giving role can affect plants and animals.

THE FINDINGS which are presented to you through time-lapse photography are now receiving attention from the American Medical association, schools of horticulture and the manufacturers of glasses for homes and optical uses. The man who had an idea, the least hazardous way to travel is on a railroad passenger train. Then come buses and scheduled planes. Passenger cars and taxis are far behind.

Selling your house? Advertising in the "For Sale-Houses" column of The Eccentric.

Speeding is the main fault of teenage drivers in accidents, National Safety Council records show.

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'Y' Men Talk Youth Problem

A special program to present the facts on the juvenile delinquency problem in the Birmingham area will be offered at a special, open meeting of the Birmingham Y's Men's Club to be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the YMCA.

Two experts will be featured as speakers of the evening. The first is Mr. Peter Zimmer, Child Welfare Director in charge of juvenile delinquency for the Oakland county courts. The second is Lt. Robert Schulte, juvenile officer of the Birmingham Police Department.

THE PURPOSE of this meeting is three-fold, according to Morgan Barstow, program chairman for the Y's Men: to acquaint the members of the Y's Men with the youth problems of the area; to provide a service to others in the community by opening this program to the public (men and women); and to create a concern for doing something about it as well as offering some direction for making a constructive start.

The Y's Men's club is the service club of the "Y," whose main emphasis is on youth work. Its major project is the sale of Christmas trees in the YMCA parking lot, the profit from which is used for numerous youth projects in the "Y" and the community.

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