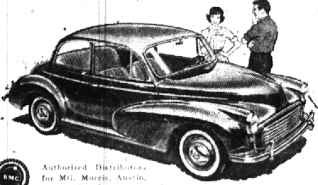


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**DOWN TO EARTH**

**Wet Weather, Good Gardens**

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
 Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

By this time you have already discovered that there isn't anything you can do about the weather. So, relax and accept all of the changes as forces working together to assure you of a nice garden next spring.

As an illustration whenever it rains or snows, and the more the merrier, you are benefiting the water table and moisture as food for all growing plants. Snow is nature's electric blanket and acts as a much against the elements. During periods of ice, it will allow you to have a sowl on your face but please do not put salt on the road because as our local citizen did, Salt will kill the plants.

The combination of sunshine and wind together is another troublemaker. So see, right here, I have tried to make you welcome rainy and snowy weather.

**HAVEN'T UNPACKED** my suitcase yet from a meeting of leading nursery growers in Chicago. Audrey Armstrong said that his company is working on hybridizing a flowering peach tree which will have large single flowers as well as good fruit.

With this same problem they are also working on developing dwarf peach trees with the same requirements.

Generally each company will be working on one specific challenge after they are satisfied with the market for a couple years and then will introduce a new variety to produce their price variety.

**HUBERT FISHER** from Hinsdale, president of the National Hemerocallis Society, told how the biggest daylilies he has seen are a selection of varieties around 1920.

Today choice crossed specimens will be sold for as much as \$125 per root.

He assured the writers that there are not any true blue hemerocallis on the market today. The goal of cross breeding is to look for those parents which have staying qualities and the flowers will be open for 36 hours. The pink varieties are the choice ones to own these days. Chateaux color is just coming on the market and the fanciers are all hoping to be the one to introduce a pure white hemerocallis. Now, let me see, at \$125 per root, and the patent law will protect the hybridizer.

**DID ANYBODY** in our area try the climbing strawberry last summer? I would like to talk with an owner of this new introduction. If this Sorbus strawberry grows six feet high, has delicious berries from the ground to the top of the plant, is everbearing, and is ornamental besides, well, what a nice accent for a garden divider or wall which has sun in the mornings. You will have to admit that gardening does provide plenty of explorations.

**MY MAIL** is flooded with material describing trips to far away places to see gardens as well as those in the United States. The Williamsburg Garden Symposium takes place this year from March 28 to April 1 with a full schedule of garden lectures, trips and social occasions. This treat has provided me with a memory which is nice to "take out" and enjoy again.

Your columnist is taking a group by plane to New York March 7 to see the New York flower show and the latest shows. The group, will arrive home at midnight March 9.

**Exonerated**

In appeal to Oakland county circuit court, Richard Wilson, 19669 Riverside, Beverly Hills, has been exonerated of the charge of driving under the influence of liquor. He had an earlier decision of the Birmingham municipal court.

**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

**GM Promotes R. B. Dow At Chevrolet**

Promotion of Robert B. Dow, 1710 Cedar Hill drive, Birmingham, to manager of Chevrolet's production department, at Chevrolet's central office here, was announced today by Edward H. Keller, general manufacturing manager for the division.

Dow succeeds Russell L. Dastman, 831 Redding, Birmingham, who will retire December 31 after more than 40 years of service with General Motors. For the past two years Dow has been manager of Chevrolet's spring and bumper plant at Livonia.

He began his career with Chevrolet in 1927 as a time study clerk at the Flint pressed metal plant. In 1939 he became die room division superintendent and later that year was named a general foreman. Dow in 1953 was named general superintendent of production at the Chevrolet-Flint V-8 engine plant. Two years later he became operations manager of Chevrolet's frame and stamping plant at Flint and on January 1, 1958, he was promoted to manager of the Livonia plant.

**New Tax Form 1040-W May Help Area Residents**

R. I. Nixon, district director of Internal Revenue, issued a reminder to taxpayers urging them to investigate the possibility of using the new form 1040-W when preparing their 1959 Federal income tax returns.

Form 1040-W will help taxpayers who are not eligible to use the punch-card Form 1040-A, but whose affairs do not require the use of the business and investment schedules on the regular form 1040, Nixon said.

**HE SAID IT** will be of particular benefit to wage and salary earners who wish to claim (1) head of household or surviving spouse status; (2) exclusion for "old pay"; (3) exclusion and credit for dividends received; (4) estimated tax payment credit; or (5) itemized deductions.

**Employee Honored At GM Banquet**

**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

Frank V. Williams 19115 Reedmore, Southfield township, a Central office and Detroit plant employee of the Termstedt division, General Motors Corporation, will be a guest of honor at Termstedt's annual twenty-five year Watch Presentation banquet January 29 at the hotel Statler-Hilton in Detroit.

**Oh, We Can Laugh — If It's Not at Us**

By RUTH VOGT  
 Special Writer

According to recent pieces in both the latest Harpers' and the New York Sunday Magazine section, the most neglected "Art" today seems to be the ability to laugh. (To poke fun at ourselves, our time and our peculiar habits).

Writing for the latter Mr. Carlos Baker wondered how Mr. Sam Johnson, Mr. Byrok or even the indignant Swift would fare in our era when everyone's joss are right there waiting to be stepped upon via the printed word.

**AND THE MAN** writing for the former magazine lamented, too, this delicate ability to drag forth into piercing daylight, many of our funny follies and entanglements. He declared that every parodist had his "pricking Toms" who refused to take everything so seriously.

To laugh to ourselves is an art. It can be quicker than a mouse caught in a light trap unless, of course, it is not.

True as Mr. Merrill Elissoid an explaining, in the same issue of the N. Y. Times, the meaning of "fall-out" in his article and ending by declaring the question of bombs creates the biggest problem faced by man since medieval times, and every writer pounds away at our present situation as being "unique," man sometimes forgets that he does possess—humor?

**UNTIL** scientists can really catch a dog or cat, (or even a horse) sitting back and giving each other a good laugh, how do we know anyone else possesses this rare gift? We don't.

Must it come to a point that a special holiday be set aside for laughter? Or, can it be more conveniently found each single day?

Each twenty-four hours presented to fill human beings offers so much of this precious commodity. The task? To find it. And how is this accomplished? By going to classes, by studying, by concentrating effort.

For heaven sakes, no!

**IT, THIS HUMOR** simple means, can be detected by very simple means. It calls for having the ears, eyes and mind working.

There's laughter all around. In the faces behind you at the stop.

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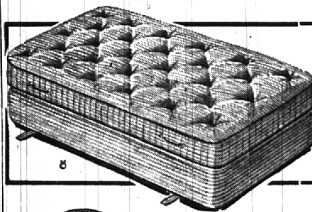
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