

# The Birmingham Eclectic Features

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## DOWN TO EARTH

### Gardening Catalogues Pass Time Till Spring

By ALICE WESELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

As this column is written, it is late at night, the furnace is working to capacity, the snow cranks with each passing car, the frost is thick on the greenhouse glass, and somehow, all is right as we settle down to tranquility with a pile of 1962 garden catalogues.

The gardener's philosophy comes to the fore as we know that this weather is necessary before the break of the wonderful Michigan springtime.

This is the time of year when our seed lists become lengthy, and it just can't crackle for anybody to ask "Where do you think you will find all of those seeds?"

Each gardener Mrs. Burlingame is an adventurer. Developing a winner until you buy it at your nursery, it can take at least ten years.

Now comes the time when the rose, which has had only a name, must have a name. This is a very serious moment like the naming of a new automobile model. Will a name assure the rose of prestige?

In this instance John S. Armstrong is one of the greatest names in Horticulture, and today, at 96 years of age, he must have a crowning rose as a tribute.

Your writer's close friend of Gladys Fisher who introduced Sterling Silver. All of her friends were asked if this name was good.

"Doesn't this lavender flower with a wisp of pink remind you of delectable lavender which picks up the luster of beautiful silver?" You can see a woman's romantic viewpoint.

Soon the silverworts of the nation adopted this rose as their symbol of quality, and now, the greenhouse growers of fine roses compete for the privilege of introducing the fine roses created by Gladys Fisher.

**CATALOGUE STUDY:** The colors of the flowers and vegetables seem very bright in these catalogues, but they provide good fuel for winter gardeners. The petals of the flowers have taken on a curly appearance. The snapdragons have responded to new ideas in crossing varieties giving us the solid flowering spikes.

Miniature roses can give pleasure this time of year for indoor gardeners if they are placed in a sunny window. At first, they have empty spikes with long, pendulous to the sun, followed by a generous display of flowers.

For their best proportions, your writer feels their best role is for sunny windows forcing in the winter.

Don't forget to plant paper white narcissus and amaryllis this time around. Many of these plants require at least 10 days in the dark to assure root growth before bringing into the light for growth and flowers.

Weather Notes: The Farmer's Almanac must have been written especially for our recent Birmingham weather. As I peek ahead for the next few days, I can see weather calling for the roar of the furnace motors and reading for ice in your cozy homes.

A new introduction must have the prestige of passing accredited judges. From the beginning of

## NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

### Time Now to Install Bird-Feeding Station

When the first heavy snows of the season cover the land, the life of our winter birds is imperiled. The supply of softer insects and seeds and fruits which remain are buried in ice and snow.

This is the time to establish your bird-feeding station. It need not be elaborate one, an inverted bushel basket lid or a tin can with both ends removed can be suspended at a wire from the limb of a tree or a clothesline.

If YOU WISH to study or photograph birds in close range, a window-sill tray is a good choice. Once accustomed to this closer scrutiny your visitors will come and go unafraid.

Birds seem to like to view a possible tray best. However, this requires more care to keep it freed from snow and spoiled food.

Because we enjoy squirrels and blue jays and even English sparrows, we usually feed from the ground. Birds like to scratch and do not mind the competition as long as there is enough food to go around.

This points to a mounting bill at the pet store which can be reduced by buying grain screenings at a mill. These are largely used to make excellent bird food.

If you wish to attract cardinals add some sunflower seeds.

A FEW OF THESE tall sunflower plants set in a sunny garden will provide you with bird food for the winter season. If you do not object to the "litter", birds will eat many table scraps such as bread, leftover greens, and apple parings. Peanut butter and any cracked nuts you may have left over from Christmas are extra treats.

If you have accumulated a supply of kitchen fat, pour it over your discarded Christmas tree or over the dried stalks of annuals in your garden. It will harden to delight bird visitor until the last leaf is eaten.

WE HAVE JUST latched a large piece of suet well up on a tree trunk so that it is out of reach of prying dogs and cats. It is visited each day by the Southern downy woodpecker and frequently nuthatches and brown creepers come to dine. Blue jays and star-

ling are omnivorous eaters and also relish this treat.

If you wish birds come to your feeding station you will soon be able to single out certain regular visitors. At our house an English sparrow who has taken to appearing for his breakfast each morning. He is chipper and seems not too shy about being observed.

For several years we had an albino robin who stayed late and came back early each spring. So far this year our cardinals are limited to a single pair. The number of winter birds which appear on the average city lot is necessarily limited, for most species nest in the open areas where berry producing weeds and shrubs thrive.

COME THE holidays the more adventuresome and well informed members of the Detroit Audubon Society spend a day in the field making their annual bird count. This year they tabulated 7,739 birds comprising 46 species. The tree sparrow led with a count of 2,092.

Unusual birds which come down from the north included the purple Finch, pine grosbeak, redpoll and evening grosbeak. In two places where open water remained, Virginia rails were sighted. Ten red-billed woodpeckers were an unusual sight as were 4 Marbled warblers and 14 golden-crowned.

(See NATURE NOW, 3-B)

## They Must Be Talkative People

### WITH ALL THOSE PHONES

With nearly 3 1/2 million telephones in the Detroit area alone has almost as many telephones as all of Russia.

The "World's Telephone", published by the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., shows there are slightly more than four million telephones in the USSR, or about two for every 100 persons.

In the whole world, the report shows, there are 141,700,000 telephones, with more than 74,342,000—in the United States.

Eighteen million cities with populations of 50,000 or more accounted for 2,158,967 of these. Detroit leading with a tally of 1,128,528. Detroit ranked third in telephone density among U. S. cities, as New York and Chicago were first and second respectively.

THIS COUNTRY'S telephone development was the highest in the world with about 40 for every 100 persons. Great Britain was next with a 16 for every 100 persons, followed by Germany took third place with 11 telephones per 100 persons.

Eighteen million cities with populations of 5,728,167, retained its distinction of being the most

## WEEKLY VISIT

### He Keys His Life to Music

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Staff Writer

"Each instrument attracts a definite personality type," says Walter Schrott, noted pianist and founder and director of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music.

"It's a fact," he will tell you, "that shy people, for instance, are drawn to the viola. An intellectual who wants to learn an instrument will usually choose the organ or harpsichord."

Schrott, who claims that dynamic people head for the piano, is the proof of his own theory; his restless, muscular hands wave as he talks, shifts of expression race across his face, and one gets the impression that he will explode from his chair momentarily.

ALTHOUGH he plays several instruments, the piano is his favorite and he has taken the stage as a soloist in many concerts. He has been guest conductor for orchestras frequently, and has served as a judge at auditions.

Most of his time, however, is given to his advanced piano students at the local conservatory. Many of them have gone on to local and state awards; one pupil has won an international award.

Schrott, who took his first formal lesson when he was seven, has a word of advice for parents of budding musicians.

"Start them as early as possible," he says.

THE SLIM, dark director explains that "everyone wears the child's time today, as though he had nothing to do." Schrott figures an earlier start will profit at least a few more practice hours.

He notes a link between the "all-around and the best music pupil" although he is not sure "which one makes the other, but music needs concentration and consistency and its discipline helps in school work."

Because his father wanted him to be a lawyer, he "came close to leaving in that Vienna but his own lifelong desire to be a musician won out."

Following his graduation from the Vienna State Academy and the Vienna Conservatory in piano and conducting, he went on to post graduate work in his field.

HITLER'S shadow over Austria forced him to leave his homeland for New York City in 1939. He worked there for the next two years as an accompanist and also taught music.

A position as church organist



Archie Brown, president of the Scandinavian Symphony Society, enjoys the music of pianist Walter Schrott who will be guest soloist at the Symphony orchestra's concert Saturday evening at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, Masonic Temple, Detroit. Schrott is director of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music.

brought him to Detroit in 1943. Teaching at the University of Detroit and Marquette College, he found himself frequently referring beginning piano students to other teachers.

The Birmingham Conservatory evolved as a result. Beginning in a house on Pierce Street, the school grew and grew until it now requires two buildings on East Maple to accommodate instructors and the 300 pupils who study everything from piano to accordion, reed reading or ballet.

SCHROTT believes much of today's music is "mechanical." The stress, he says, is laid on perfection, due perhaps to the methods used in recording where "a piece of tape is snipped out and another piece put in."

"You can't be just a musician to play music well," he says. "You have to play it all the way through on the concert stage and it also takes interpretation. The artist must strive to understand life in its total aspects."

He will play Concerto No. 3 by Ludwig van Beethoven.

Because most of his solo and conducting appearances are made locally, he must "never play the same thing twice in one season."

He is happy about his coming performance with the Scandinavian Symphony because it arouses sentiment in the listener. Sometimes that's overlooked today.

"You have to have an opinion to play music well," he says. "You have to have an opinion to play music well."

His constant chuckle bursts out

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## Basket Detail

A basketful of fun is scheduled for local youngsters at The Birmingham Community House on Jan. 20 from 1-3 p.m. when B'wana Don of WJBR-TV and his friend Bongo Bailey will be on hand for some monkey-shines. The special children's show will include cartoons, riddles and the appearance of many of B'wana Don's animal friends.

Ward Ouradnik, executive director of the Community House, has announced that members of the Newcomers Club will be hostesses for the show, eliminating the need for parents to attend. Tickets are now on sale at the Community House.

## How to Go About Selecting a Dentist

This is the third in a series of questions and answers on dental health published by The Birmingham Eclectic in cooperation with the Oakland County Dental Society, in observance of National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 4 through 10.

I am new in my area and want to know how to go about selecting a dentist.

There are several reliable methods of obtaining names of reputable dentists in your area:

1. Telephone the office of the local dental society, if one is listed in the telephone book, and ask for the names of several qualified dentists. If there is no listing, write the American Dental Association, 222 East Superior St., Chicago 17, Ill., for information.
2. Ask your physician to recommend several dentists.
3. Telephone the chief of dental service or the attending dentist of an accredited hospital and ask him to recommend several qualified dentists.
4. Consult the American Dental Directory, which is available in libraries and geographically every dentist in the United States and provides information concerning ready reference to present dentists also prefer that you bring the child in before any trouble develops so that the child may become accustomed to the dentist and the office. The appointment, if possible, should be in the morning.

Most dentists find the child will accept dental treatment more readily if a parent or grandparent is present. Dentists also prefer that you bring the child in before any trouble develops so that the child may become accustomed to the dentist and the office. The appointment, if possible, should be in the morning.

(See DENTIST, 3-B)

Sir, You Need More Space for Sleeping!

Of course, you need more than crib-sized sleeping space! But, if you're sharing a standard size (54 inch wide) double bed, you're NOT getting it. Your half is only 27 inches wide, exactly the same as a baby's crib. For real sleeping comfort, take a look at our wide assortment of King Size and regular Twin Beds today!

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