

Trip to Florida Yields New Garden Ideas

As Birmingham is becoming a center for art participation and interest, we citizens are traveling Florida's Ringling Museum. The "with a new pair of glasses on" as we see and appreciate our country's contribution in culture.

In Sarasota, Fla., we have a magnificent example of an art center in the Ringling Museum of Art. A full sized cast of Michelangelo's Peter Paul Rubens which was

4-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC April 18, 1963



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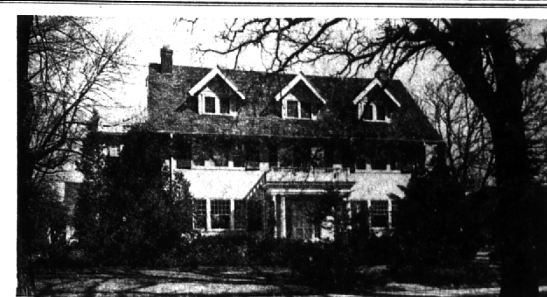
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By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic



Mrs. Burlingame

DRIVING DOWN through Georgia, near Fort Valley on each side of the road we were in an immense "sea" of flowering peach trees which resembled a huge carpet of flowering creeping figs. This area shipped 120,000 bushels of peaches last year.

THE TREES are never allowed to grow over six or seven feet high, and they are pruned so that the sun can go down into the center of the tree. I stopped to visit a fruit man, Walter Pearson. He said that last year where a fruit grower from Michigan had stopped to inquire about their manner of pruning their fruit trees, the reply to his inquiry was: "By keeping a fruit tree trimmed to the height at which a man can pick the harvest without a ladder. It is far quicker. By opening the center of the fruit tree branches, sun is allowed to team down throughout the tree so that the peaches all ripen at one time."

Now here is a lesson gleaned while traveling which you can adapt to your yard.

IT WAS interesting to note in Jasper, Fla., that all of the camphor trees were dead—many tall, gray, gnarled, over 100 years old, killed by the freeze. Right beside them were the flowering dogwoods which are even native way up in Michigan.

Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORINNE ABATT

By now many of you will have received at least the second announcement about your high school class reunion. At the bottom is a list of names the committee is still trying to find—Wilma Funk Stickelhoff, was last heard from in California, does anyone know Wilma's present address?

It is a funny thing about people, some will cross oceans and take trains or planes thousands of miles for a look at the old high school gang, and some won't even walk around the corner.

As soon as you decide to go, you walk over to the mirror for a quick check. You run your fingertips over the lines around the eyes, check the gray hairs to see how many are showing and make a mental note after to pull in the tummy.

Not too bad, you say to yourself, the ones from the class whom you see occasionally don't look as well preserved as you do, in fact, they look downright old.

YOU TELL your spouse that you hope they won't all run up to you with that old saw, "Gee, you haven't changed a bit," because, of course, you have changed.

You figure that you look a heck of a lot more dignified this you used to, you have more savoir faire—more class, although you don't care much for the word.

And just to make sure that they all notice how much you've changed for the better, you get yourself a new outfit for the occasion.

WHEN THE class reunion night finally comes and the group assembles for before dinner refreshment there is a great deal of dignity floating around—the members engage in back slapping and hand shaking. There is the frantic search for names and much "remember when" type conversation. Everybody asks how many children you have and where you are located.

By the time dinner has reached the third course the classmates begin to revert back to high school types. Waldo (Louise) Manners is wadding up a piece of his paper napkin for a long spit ball throw across the dining room while the gray-haired bank teller, former school joke telling champion, is

causing much raucous laughter at his table.

THE REUNION committee (clever bunch) have decided to award some prizes for the after dinner entertainment.

Their list starts with a prize for the class member who came the farthest and goes through the person with the youngest child, person with the oldest child, male member with the most hair (he wins a giant comb), male member with the least hair (he gets a polishing cloth), and class member with the most children. This last prize is always copied by that plain little girl whose name no one could ever remember and who never had a date her entire four years at the school.

THE CLIMAX of the evening for the female members of the class is the first meeting after 20 years with her high school sweetheart. (This is the reason no woman will go to a class reunion without a fresh, new, beauty salon hairdo, a new dress, shoes, purse—the works.)

At this meeting, a woman may have one of several reactions and say to herself, "Boy, am I glad I had the sense to turn him down—he's so fat and so bald," or she may think, "He's still a nice guy, I hope he's happy" or she may give her feelings away with an open-mouthed remark like "You say you're president of which network?"

SOMEHOW, AFTER a couple of hours, the reunion enthusiasm begins to fade. You begin to get anxious to see the bunch who are your present day friends, it's easier to talk when you don't have to cross 10 or 20 years.

You get home, take another look in the mirror and decide that (being very objective) you did look better than the rest—yesterday, anyway.

All in all, it is a satisfying experience, but one that shouldn't happen except maybe every 10 years.

blooming their heads off.

A botanist would say that it is a matter of cell structure. Austrian pine by the thousands were also ghosts all over Florida, waiting to be cut down and taken away. Other shrubs and trees were beginning to sprout at their roots.

GOING OVER the parkway toward Tampa there were signs in front of the clematis: "Don't burn or cut. Poisonous." Now there is a way to save the protection of a colorful plant material!

Near Ft. Myers it was interesting to visit the Montee Fruit Co., where they had, under 20 acres of pitting, growing mums which are harvested from mid-October through June, being shipped by air and refrigerator trucks from Seattle to New York. These perfectly formed chrysanthemums were sold only by weight.

ANOTHER horticultural lesson is to be observed at Lehigh Acres, near Fort Myers, where you can visit the largest commercial farm devoted to the growing of plants without the use of soil.

On this 11 acre site, you see cement troughs—62 per acre—where plants are growing in eight inches of gravel (to support their roots) and are fed from 38,800 gallon tanks, (one per acre) holding a solution of natural minerals in the water.

The feed formula is sluiced through the beds. The result is no weeds nor harmful bacteria.

ONE ACRE where this practice of growing is used is equivalent to 150 acres of conventional planting. The plants can be set closer together, and space does not have to be allowed for weeding or cultivation. There is year-around harvesting due to the control of the minerals for nourishment. Truck gardening flourishes with this means of cultivation.

So you can see, when you are interested in "reading the countryside," each mile traveled is an adventure.

Get the tools out, we can't loaf next week.

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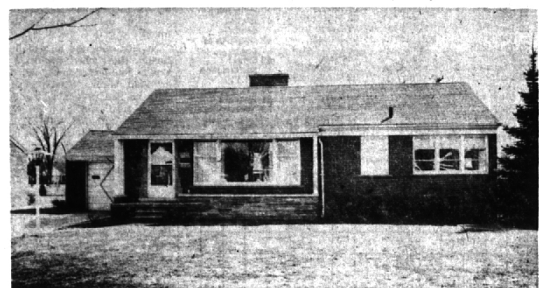
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Mayfair Nursery Schedules Meeting

Mayfair Cooperative Nursery will hold its membership meeting at 8 p.m. Monday at the City National Bank, Ten Mile and Orchard Lake roads. This is a general meeting to

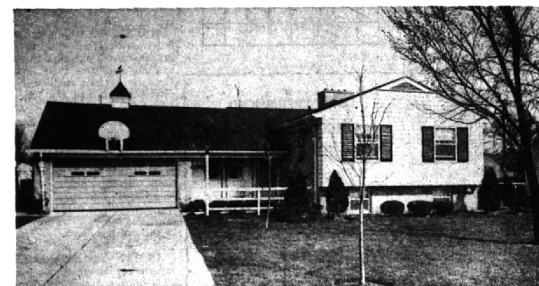
a sabbatical leave to travel with her family to Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan and Nepal. At the meeting Dr. Callard will describe her studies and findings and will show slides of this trip.

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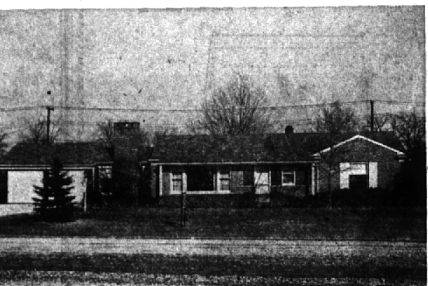
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