

Stacyon club members write that they have a very special Christmas program arranged for the night of December 13 when the garden club meets with Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Harold. Mrs. J. H. McDaniel will assist.



Mrs. C. O. Sloper of Independence will demonstrate Christmas decorations in wreaths, swags, rings and mantle arrangements, while Mrs. W. A. Ingles, of their own club, will show table arrangements.

Questions and answers: Mrs. H. W. Salem, writes she has been having difficulty in growing the rubber plant (ficus elastica). This common house plant, after once started, is as a rule not difficult to make grow. It does best in a warm, moist greenhouse, but it will stand a surprising amount of abuse under ordinary home conditions. Do not over-water during the winter, and in summer plunge the pot out-of-doors in a sandy spot during the warmest weather. It likes a porous, well-drained soil, rather generous in humus.

B. T. M. asks which is the best known botanical garden in the United States. Something comparable to the Kew Gardens in London.

Ans.: From the descriptions of the Kew Gardens, I would think the Missouri Botanical garden in St. Louis would be somewhat comparable. This was established in 1860. However, the New York Botanical garden, in Bronx Park is much larger and more important. It is also a newer garden, not having been established until 1898. There are a large number of other gardens, many devoted to special types of plant. The University of Washington has a rather fine one in its arboretum. And speaking of arboretums, there is the well-known Arnold arboretum near Boston.

L. M. C. asks which of the box-woods is the Victorian box, to which she has seen a number of references.

Ans.: I believe this is the Pittosporum Undulatum.

A. M. M. asks what is the difference between the grape hyacinth and the muscari.

Ans.: These are the same. They are natives of the Mediterranean area and some varieties are called feather-hyacinth, starch hyacinth and tassel hyacinth.

V. H. R. asks if the common heliotrope is really a house plant or is it an outdoor annual.

Ans.: Most houseplants are merely tender perennials from other climates. Many of the plants we term tender annuals are perennials in their native haunts. Here, the heliotrope is grown most frequently as a tender summer annual. The first frosts of autumn catch it. In greenhouses it is longer lived. I do not know just how it would grow under ordinary home conditions. It seems to thrive on sun, rich soil and moisture. For years I have grown heliotropes in my summer garden for their fragrance. I usually select the warmest place, give the plant a rich humus soil and plenty of water. It does very well under those conditions. In shadier places, the plant grows larger but does not produce quite so many blooms.

Not long ago, writes Mrs. C. J. J., she saw a shrub with leaves like snowballs and the owner called it a snowball bush. But it had large red berries about the size of one of our seedling cherries. I'd like so much to have one like this but I have never seen a snowball bush with berries on it. I have a Japanese snowball and there is nothing on it after it has bloomed.

Ans.: Your friend likely had a tall-bush cranberry. It is a lovely shrub both for its autumn coloring in foliage and for its very bright red berries. Both this and the snowball belong to the viburn-

nums, and the cranberry bush, in foliage does resemble the snowball considerably. It is very easy of culture and inexpensive to purchase. Definitely, it should be used as a background shrub.

B. J. T. asks for the name of the single chrysanthemums grown so much in Willamette valley gardens. She writes she prefers them to the larger ones.

Ans.: I expect she refers to the Korean chrysanthemums, which, indeed, are among our loveliest garden chrysanthemums. I know there are still a few questions which have been mailed to me which have not yet been answered. I hope to pick them up, and any others which may come in, following vacation time which is December 15 and 22. I plan to be back again on December 29, and until then -- Merry Christmas.

Monmouth--The Civic club will meet Thursday, December 12. Louise Woodruff of OCE music staff will furnish student musical numbers. Christmas decorations of flowers and greenery will be described and demonstrated by W. S. Jenks, Breithaupt Floral company, Salem.

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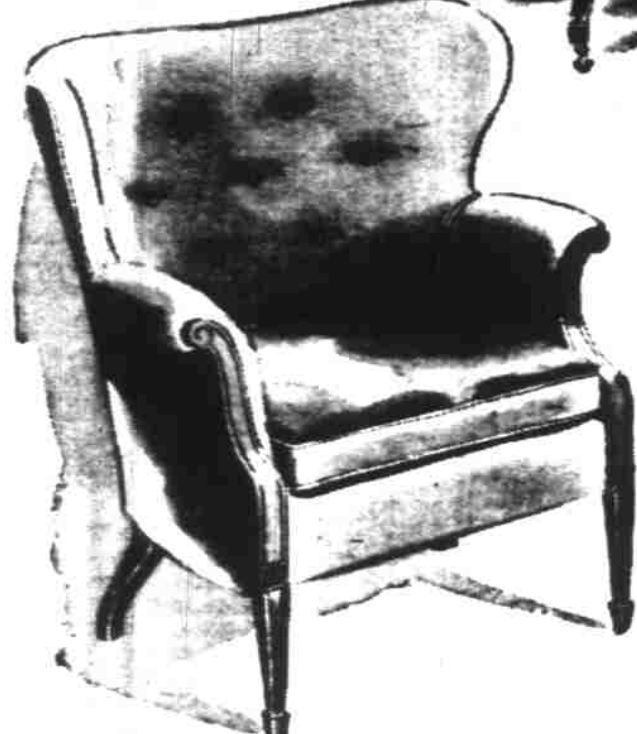
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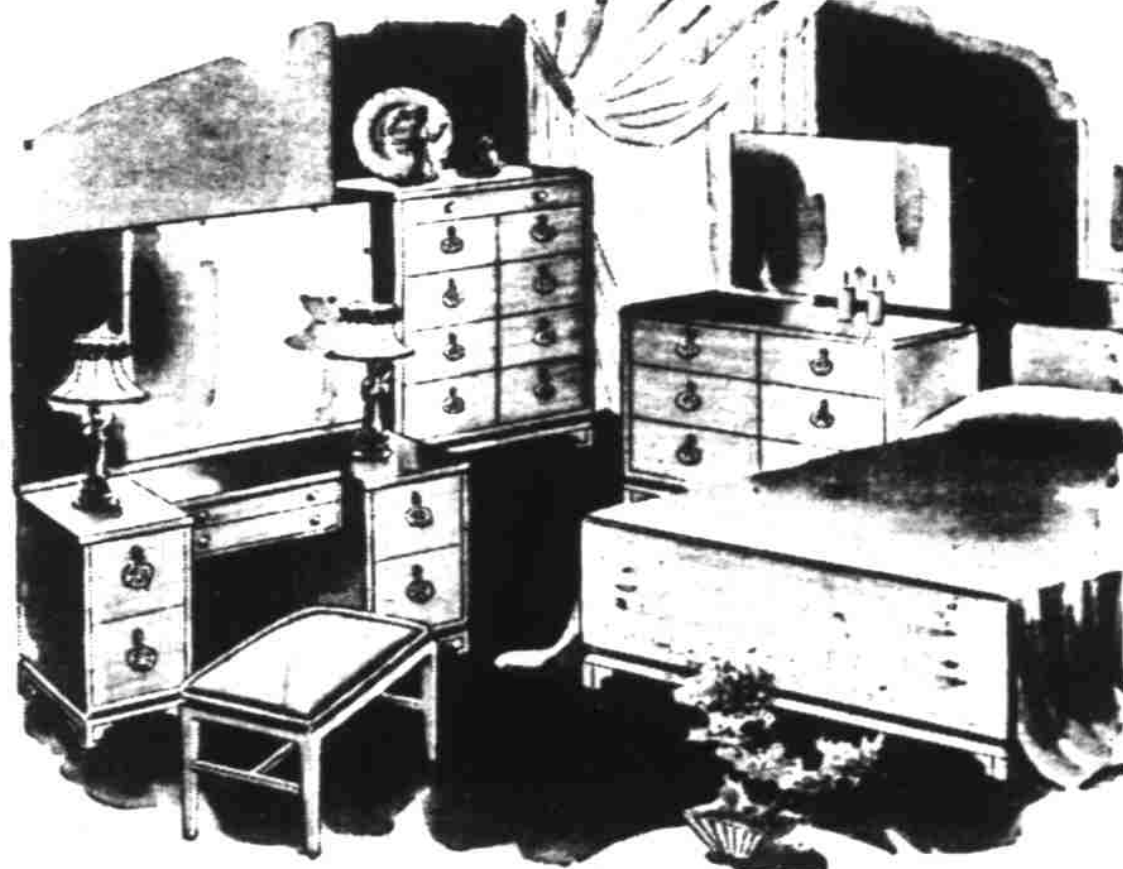
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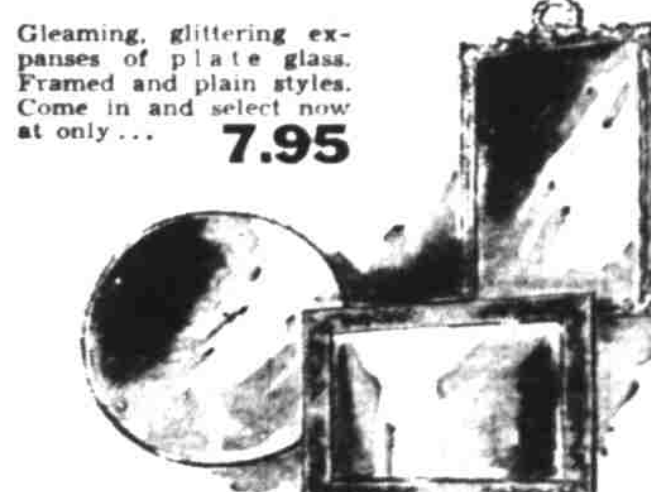
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