

# Capital Journal HOME PAGE

## Rock Garden Suggestions For Small and Large Areas

The rock garden enthusiasm of the early thirties has not died out as was then predicted but today rock gardens may be found in a good percentage of home gardens ranging from small scale miniatures to a large area.

Normally, the site for a rock garden should be free of the competitive roots of trees or from the drip from or shading by overhanging branches. The rock garden should be protected from ravaging winds, though they often form their own protection. It should be placed in a natural setting, not up against a house or in the center of a lawn. The rock garden need not be a focal point in the garden, but, rather, a retreat, such as may be found in a "natural" location.

**Drainage Necessary**

Subsoil must be porous to insure good drainage. In building the rock garden, remove the good top soil first (you'll need it later), dig to the level desired, start at the bottom and work up, placing the largest rocks to form the contour of the garden then adding smaller ones to continue the shaping desired. Leave crevices or pockets for plants, too. Always use local rocks as they fit into the natural appearance of the location. Imported rocks may destroy the effectiveness of the whole plan. When the rocks are placed, fill in the crevices and low spots with the top soil for your plants. Plants for use in a rock garden are many and varied. Here are some good ones:

- Achillea — white, blooms April-May. Likes sun.
- Alyssum Saxatile Compacta—yellow, blooms April-June. Small, likes shade.
- Arabis — white, blooms April-August. 8 inches tall.
- Arenaria — white, blooms April-July. 4-6 inches tall.
- Asperula — white, blooms April-July. 7 inches tall.
- Aubretia — varied colors. Blooms April-July. 6 inches tall.

**MADE TO ORDER Standard Sizes in Stock**

A complete line of custom built fireplace screens and fixtures. All types. All sizes. Available in solid brass or any finish desired! See our complete display.

**DOUGHTON HARDWARE**  
Ph. 3-6788 355 Court We Give 25¢ Green Stamps

Winter's Coming... Better SEE RADIANT GLASSHEAT 1540 Fairgrounds Rd. Phone 4-6263

## Ferns Provide Green Beauty

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Among the non-flowering plants, the highest developed are the ferns. They come, not from seeds, but from spores borne in spore cases on the underside of a leaf or frond, or on a separate stalk. The bare stalk of the frond is called a stipe. Each major lobe or division of the frond is called pinna.

Thoreau says "Nature made ferns for pure beauty". And, thus, it is their green beauty and endless variety of forms that makes them valuable either in the garden or for house plants. In the garden they suggest the woodlands, and should be planted in the "native" garden. They harmonize well with many shrubs, like rhododendrons and azaleas. They remain evergreen nearly the year around.

**Care In Moving**

When moving ferns from their native state to the home garden, care must be exercised. They should be placed in the same compass directions and their natural habitat should be duplicated as nearly as possible. For best effects, avoid planting flowers and ferns together. Ferns may be used in a rock garden to soften sharp or uneven edges, but their association with flowers should end there with the exception of use with native shrub plantings.

Most homes are too warm and dry for successful fern culture, though hanging baskets for the Maidenhair Fern are very popular. As a whole, ferns require ample moisture and limited nutrients.

**Native Soil Needed**

The impression from the sight of a luxuriant growth of ferns is that the soil is rich with a mysterious nutrient, but that impression is erroneous. Ferns long established in natural environs develop a root system that takes in a proportion of weak solution. The top growth is relative to the volume of the solution rather than the concentration. The soft soil around fern roots is the important factor, so when moving native ferns take plenty of the "natural" humus in which they live. Move in the early spring or in the fall. They can be transplanted in full leaf if you take plenty of root and soil and duplicate their native habitat as nearly as possible.

## Salem Firm Agent for Van-Parker Chimney



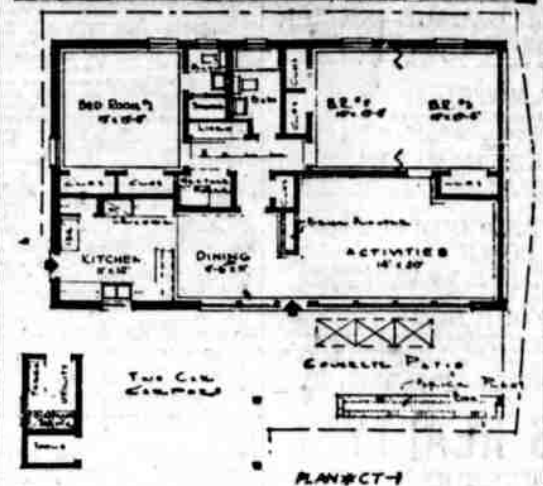
D. E. Cooper and Son are now dealers for the Van-Parker chimney, which is a pre-cast masonry flue with new embossed asbestos housing that looks like a real brick chimney.

This newly developed lightweight housing unit simulates a regular brick chimney. It was developed under specifications suggested by builders throughout the country. It is 16 by 24 inches and easy to install. It may be hung from any ceiling joint with smoke coming out within less than three hours.

The chimney is accepted by FHA, VA, the Army, Navy, Uniform Pacific Building Conference and the AEC. Seven thousand five hundred have been installed in Oregon homes.

**Lawns, Sprinkler SYSTEMS**  
Fences, Walks, Etc. SERVICE CENTER  
Phone 4-3373

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



An activities room supplants the usual living room in this home designed for the living requirements of the modern family. Two children's bedrooms can be separated by folding partition as indicated on the plan. This is a house designed for year round air-conditioning. Charles B. Wittich, 2214 Cedar Springs, Dallas, Texas, is the architect. It is one of three variations built and sold in Dallas, Texas, for less than \$13,000 with land.

## On the House

The majority of families in this country, according to the last census, own their homes. And every home owner is a potential home seller. Still most advice about houses is geared around the theme of "How to Buy a House" . . . "How to Judge a House" . . . "How to Build a House."

It seems to be high time that somebody said something about "How to Sell a House."

So Walter Rostenberg has written a book "Houses For Sale," published by Stravon Publishers, New York.

"Millions of dollars are lost annually by some home sellers in unnecessary repairs and renovations which they mistakenly believe will raise the selling price of their homes," says Realtor Rostenberg. "Often such expenses are 'down the drain' as the full value of such outlays are not always realized in the selling price."

A wet cellar and a leaking roof are mentioned as the most serious drawbacks in trying to sell a house, but when it comes to dressing up a property in vivid colors, the author issues a warning.

If a house normally would bring \$15,000, he says, "and the improvements would amount to \$4,000, it is doubtful that the seller would realize a price of \$19,000 with the improvements. Besides the buyer may not have wanted those improvements; or he may not be able to afford them at the moment."

It seems that the salability of old houses might be improved through cooperation of seller and buyer before the contract is signed. With a preliminary mortgage appraisal made on the existing property, it might be comparatively easy to obtain a larger commitment based on the proposed improvements. Although this might not net the seller a greater profit. It at least could insure the sale at a fair price.

The seller would not lose the sale for the want of a new roof and new heating plant. He would say "The house needs these things and they are going to cost you X dollars. Let's see if your bank will finance them on the regular mortgage. I will then pay for them and charge you the same amount, which will be added to your mortgage."

This might at least save further depression of the price for want of needed improvements.

Rostenberg's book, however,

## Questions Answered

BY MARK M. TAYLOR

Q—What is your opinion as to the relative merits of commercial (chemical) and organic fertilizers?—Mrs. R. L.

ANS.—This is a tough one as the two schools of thought are each adamant and positive. But, changing some readers' differences of opinion—it is my belief that plants are much like humans. Their needs are greatly parallel. Each requires certain food elements for growth. Frankly, chemistry has not improved upon the old standby organic fertilizer manure, but has succeeded in making available whatever elements a plant may need in such a form that it can be easily applied.

The main elements of plant nutrition are nitrogen, phosphorus and potash, plus a number of minor elements. Manure usually contains a good proportion of each, as does your compost. So, why go further unless a deficiency in some element is shown? The great advantage of organic fertilizers is the fact they add a mulch or soil conditioning quality to the soil while fertilizing. The old argument that excess use of chemical fertilizers will harden a soil stems from the fact that some manufacturers have used a ground or pulverized rock base to which the chemical clings. But, today, this is not necessarily true as many chemical fertilizers come in liquid form, easiest of application and easier for the plant to consume. Just as human beings need to supplement their diet with vitamins, plants may require a supplemental supply of certain needed elements. In other words, I believe that these two schools of thought, after formerly vigorously opposing each other, should cooperate in helping the home gardener determine just what his plants need for best production. I see no reason why a sensible combination of both organic and chemical fertilizers should not be used in any garden.

Q—Is sawdust a good mulch for plants?—L. T.

ANS.—Yes, provided it is well rotted. If not, add some nitrogenous fertilizer to hasten decomposition as the process of decomposition will use up the available nitrogen. The two combined will serve as an excellent mulch and will add fertility to the soil.

Q—How do you treat gourds for use in table arrangements?—Mrs. H. W.

ANS.—Dry them, then clean and shellac to give gloss. Natural sun drying is best.

Q—Is Heavenly Bamboo, a true bamboo?—Mrs. C. O.

ANS.—No, it is Nandina domestica, a small evergreen shrub with bamboo-like leaves. It is a fine winterflowering shrub. This interesting plant is related to the barberries, but not to be bamboos.

Q—Please recommend some evergreen hedge plants.—Mrs. B. R.

ANS.—Japanese Yew and American Arborvitae are quite often used for the evergreen unclipped hedge. Boxwood seems to be a local favorite for the short hedge. Sasanqua Camellias will make a beautiful hedge, with flowers, too, as does the shrub Althea or Hibiscus Syriacus. For an informal unclipped hedge, the spiraea are nice. They are not evergreen, of course. The privets are much used and though deciduous, hold their leaves until quite late in the fall.

Q—What plants would be good for covering a steep bank?

## Putting Tools in Shape for Winter

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Putting garden tools to bed for the winter as well as plants is good gardening. Here is a handy checklist of things to watch for:

- Axe—Light head, smooth handle, keen edge.
  - Brush hook—Free from rust, oiled, smooth.
  - Cultivator—Tight handle, no rust, un bent.
  - Dibble—Light and smooth handle, grease point.
  - Edger—Sharp, un bent, handle smooth, tight and straight.
  - Spading Fork—Sharp tines, handle smooth, tight and straight.
  - Mower (lawn)—Oiled, sharpened, set on blocks, covered.
  - Pruning Shear—Sharp, oiled, clean, good catch and spring.
  - Rake—Tines straight, rust free, oiled, handle tight.
  - Grass Shears—Sharp, no rust and oiled, handles smooth.
  - Spade—Bright, un bent, light handle, smooth.
  - Wheelbarrow—Rust free, tle oiled, sides painted, under cover.
- Maintaining tools now in the conditions mentioned above will save labor and expense next spring and summer. Also store stakes, plant labels, etc., in handy locations for use next season.

## SLUGS MAY INFEST FIELDS OF CLOVER

Fields of vetch and crimson clover and fall seeded pasture legums may be damaged by slugs this kind of weather.

Ahrens Bros. at Turner reporter to the county extension agent this week that slugs had cleaned a crimson clover for them.

Commercial slug bait pellets may be applied at four pounds or more per acre.

**SALEM VENETIAN BLINDS**  
CAPITAL SHADE & DRAPERY SHOP (Formerly Reinholdt & Lewis) 260 S. 21st St. Phone 4-1856

**EMPIRE Lite Rock BLOCK**  
MADE FROM EXPANDED SHALE

CALL 2-1500

**C & K LUMBER YARD**  
Lancaster & Confor Sts.

## Useful Edging Plants Suggested

By MARK M. TAYLOR

**Sempervivum Tectorium**—commonly called Hens and Chickens, are easy to grow and are useful border plants. Planted as edgings for flower beds or rock gardens, they have been found to check the spreading of lawn grasses into those localities. These have leaf rosettes up to four inches across, hairy stems to one foot high with one inch flowers of pink to red. They multiply readily (hence their common name) and the "chickens" can be used to extend the edging as needed. They are evergreen succulents that do well in pot culture indoors, too.

**Helianthemum or Sun Rose**, is another fine edging plant. This thrives in dry soil in full sun and bears yellow, rose, white or purple flowers from June to September. The plants may reach a height of one foot with one inch flowers.

For the shrubby border dwarf or low growing evergreen shrubs are most appropriate. Low-growing perennials have their place in edging the perennial border. These include Candytuft, Rock Cress, dwarf phlox, pink or violas. For the annual border, use Sweet Alyssum, Lobelia, Ageratum or other low-growing annuals.

**Linoleum NATIONAL BRANDS CAPITOL FLOOR COVERINGS**  
217 S. High Ph. 45751

**Duratile**

Beautiful your Kitchen & Bathroom with this permanent, waterproof metal rail tile. 28 colors. Guaranteed not to rust, chip, crack, fade or peel.

Average Tub Recess 4" High FHA TERMS \$4995 Completely Installed—

Tile It Yourself and Save \$20.35

1249 S. COMMERCIAL ST.

Phone 4-5292 FREE Estimates



## A Welcome Guest

You'll welcome the \$\$\$\$ you save when you spend week-ends profitably by doing your own painting. Especially when you use easy-flowing enamel from NORRIS-WALKER. It's self-filling and leaves no brush marks—even grandmother can use it! Perfect for woodwork and other household spots that take a lot of wear.

So come in and order your paint here and now!

**NORRIS-WALKER Paint Company**  
1710 FRONT STREET • Phone 4-2279

**PLYWOOD SPECIALS**

Dick Meyer Lumber Company

1/4" Shop Grade— \$2.64  
4x8 Sheet at

(8 1/4¢ per sq. ft.)  
(Equal or Superior in quality to reject)  
ALSO just received another shipment

"A" Grade Interior Slab Mahogany Doors \$7.75 Per Door  
(Regular selling price \$9.00 to \$10.50)

Above items on special only as long as quantities last  
Located 2 Blocks North of Underpass  
And 1 Block East of 1775 Lana Avenue

No Parking Problems Phone 3-4939

**Yours for Home Beauty**

**Capital Housewives Delight**  
181 N. High St.

**Capital Shade & Drapery Shop**  
Formerly Reinholdt & Lewis Phone 4-1856

Only the highest quality materials and the finest in workmanship. Come in and select from our wide assortment of drapery materials in florals and solid colors from which you can have your drapes custom made to your exact specifications. See the new fade-proof Glascloth now available.

We also feature Kirsch Rods—the finest in traverse and curtain rods. Double-duty Kirsch Rods and all Kirsch repair parts also in stock.

FREE ESTIMATES

**Picture of a lucky housewife**

She has Mueller Climatrol Automatic Oil Heating

If you are like most modern housewives, you have enough to do without those incessant trips to the basement to tend the furnace. So, why put up with this messy chore any longer — when you can have modern Mueller Climatrol automatic oil heating — and at so little cost?

You'll like Mueller Climatrol oil heating because it keeps your house cleaner, it's entirely automatic, and so fuel-thrifty too. You'll like the smooth, even heat it provides in every room of your house — even during winter's coldest weather.

Why not get complete details now? Call us today and ask for a free heating survey of your home. There is no obligation.

**Mueller Climatrol**  
Only the Rich Can Afford Poor Heat

**D. E. COOPER & SON**  
540 Hood Phone 33603