

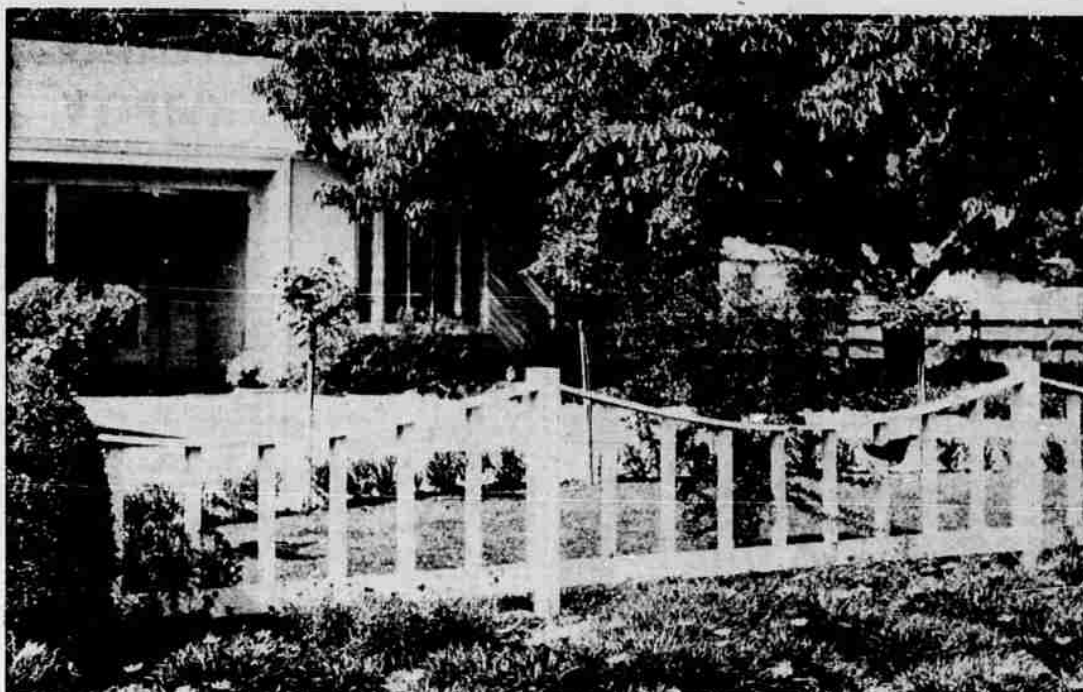
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THIS MODIFIED PICKET FENCE was made with ordinary western pine region lumber, yet it adds a charming and distinctive touch because of its scalloped con-

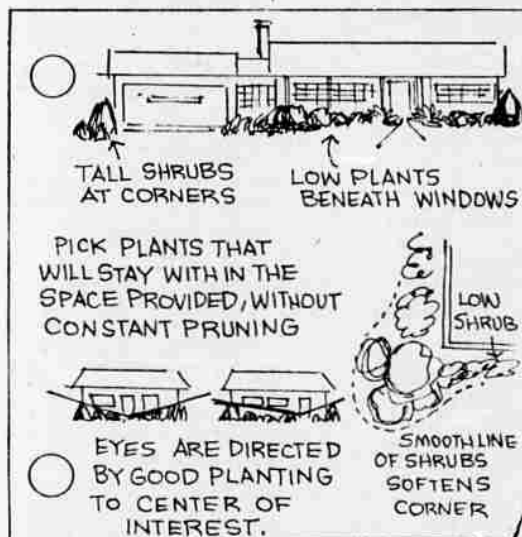
tour. This fence is primarily decorative and it serves to mark the line between neatly trimmed lawn and untrimmed meadow grass.

Look Carefully Before You Landscape

By ALLAN SWENSON
Written for
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
Make your house a welcome sight with attractive foundation planting. A few simple landscaping techniques can improve the appearance of many homes, both old and new. With good landscaping you not only add natural

point to the center of the door-sill will show you the ideal height for foundation shrubs. If you follow that basic design, your plants will be in best proportion to the house. Depending on the size of your home, choose shrubs and small trees that will harmonize with this plan. Your local garden cen-

ters will give color and fill in space until the shrubs mature. High basements or bare walls can be hidden with vines. Baltic or Boston ivy and winter creeper are excellent. They also provide green backgrounds for flowers. Look before you landscape. You'll enjoy a more attractive home if you plan and plant it well.



beauty and balance to your home, you improve the property value too.

Before you buy another shrub, look ahead 10 years. In your mind's eye, picture how you want your home to look when shrubs and trees near maturity. Then, apply these tips to help you plan the best arrangement.

Scale your plantings to the size and style of your home. Formal older homes need balanced plantings. With modern houses, informal arrangements can be used more freely. Let your landscaping express your own good taste and individuality.

The main purpose of foundation landscaping is to soften architectural lines by adding colorful and attractive plants. Your house should appear part of the natural scene. Accenting with shrubs or trees is a second aim of landscaping.

Make your front door the focal point of foundation planting. To achieve this effect, follow an artist's example. Create lines with plants that carry your eye to your door.

Draw the corner shrubs on a sketch of your house. Tops of corner plantings when mature should reach a point half-way between the ground line and the roof.

A straight line drawn from that

ter or nurseryman can tell you which shrubs will do best in your soil and climate.

Use taller plants such as French lilacs, upright yews, Japanese holly and others for the corner plantings. Several may be grouped to soften abrupt angles.

Rounded shrubs like boxwood, dwarf yew, spreading junipers and azaleas are better along the front and rear doorways. Spectacular flowering shrubs are best used to highlight features rather than vie for interest at your door.

Several planting tricks can change your home's appearance. To widen a small home, use low hedge type plants. For tall homes, try rounded shrubs to minimize the height. To link an addition to the house, plant a series of similar shrubs that provides visual continuity.

Planning will save you work. Choose plants that naturally remain the height and width you need. That avoids constant pruning. Under windows use low-growing types, which won't block your view when they mature.

Space is important in foundation plantings. Plan beds wide enough so plants don't rub the walls or interfere with each other's growth. If your budget is restricted, buy younger plants. Then interplant with annuals for the first few years. These flow-

Lighting In Home Can Be Improved

Lighten the interior of your home with light-colored paints and clean light fixtures. You'll find rewards in fewer headaches, smaller light bills and more light without extra expense, advises Bernice Strawn, extension home management specialist at Oregon State College.

First, she suggests that home-makers wipe dirt from bulbs and fixtures. Oily dusty film which collects on bulbs, diffusion bowls and shades can cheat families out of a fifth to a half of the light normally available, she said.

To clean, wipe bulbs with a damp cloth. Don't immerse the bulb in water. If the base of the light bulb gets wet, it may loosen from the glass bulb, she cautions. Before cleaning a diffusion bowl, disconnect lamp from the outlet, then remove the bowl. Wash diffusion bowls, glass or plastic, in warm (not hot) sudsy water. Rinse, and dry inside and out.

Check reading lamps for blackened bulbs. A blackened bulb may waste as much as a fourth of the light although it may be good for several hours use after it's darkened. Put these bulbs in closets, storage rooms or attics where they are less often used, and put new bulbs in reading lamps.

Use of light-colored paints on inside walls and ceilings is another suggestion the specialist offers to reduce light bills.

It's cheaper, Miss Strawn says, to light rooms with light-colored ceilings, walls and floors than rooms decorated with dark colors. Dark colors absorb light and make it necessary to step up the total electricity used.

White or near-white are recommended for ceilings to provide maximum reflection. A dull finish on walls and ceilings encourages more comfortable lighting. Shiny surfaces bounce back with uncomfortable glare.

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