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The Garden Timetable

Transform House Into Fairyland

By CORA A. HARRIS
News Garden Editor

We may be hurrying this subject a bit, but indoors can become fairyland with forced blossoms from your yard. Starting the middle of this month and continuing into February and March, the artist's Palette is at your finger tips!

Bringing spring indoors is no novelty to many gardeners, but rules must be followed and new gardeners should adhere strictly and learn the art of filling the home with color or greenery during a bleak season.

Let your choice of flowering shrubs for forcing be governed by the nearness to blooming time; the closer to their normal blossoming season, the more quickly they will bloom in your home.

Select branches with plenty of buds. Prune flush to side branch to avoid trouble with the plant. Splice the end of the branch and even peel the bark a little; this allows instant water intake.

Warm water is always used because it is always more quickly absorbed. Never cut branches during or immediately after a freeze.

After cutting branches, take them into a cool room where flower buds can develop without intense heat or in a drying atmosphere. In other words, take branches, violets, Roman hyacinths and other material, step by step into your living room. They may be left in an unheated room for two or three days and then into the house.

Place the branches immediately into warm water when they are brought into a room from the garden. If air in the home is dry (and this is the case in almost all homes and apartments) branches will require spraying.

Cut branches with a sharp knife or shears on a mild day. If you prefer crushing the stems, crush with a hammer or heavy tool; most gardeners like to split the ends for quicker water intake. Split at least two inches.

Cydonia japonica is easily and quickly forced and it may be forced now. Forcing of this favorite flower requires from one week to ten days. The dainty little flowering apricot, which showed color in November but held back by cold weather, is another quickie.

Branches to be forced should be cut with a long slant at the bottom to facilitate water absorption. Receptacles should be deep. Tops of branches should be sprayed with an atomizer to prevent buds from drying out, as we discussed in a previous paragraph.

I remember visiting Mrs. Benjamin Withers garden at forcing time and there was more going on in five minutes than one finds in most gardens all day. The minute her violets showed green, a clump was dug and placed in an old-fashioned fern dish for indoors. She kept an eye on Roman hyacinths, her pet in the garden, and when they reached a height of three inches, up they came and were brought into the house.

Pussy willows should be placed in tubs with warm water and left several hours or until the outside bud layers are soft enough to be peeled. Spireas and forsythia are popular forcing branches. Forsythia will burst open with beautiful, golden to brighten your home in about 8 to 10 days. Other types of shrubs may require several weeks to open.

Pittosporum, an elegant evergreen, likes heavy trimming and it can be done at anytime now if there is no freezing; if freezing occurs, wait until a mild day to prune. This shrub makes an ideal foundation plant and it produces sufficient growth to have in the home. But, let me remind you, it is a little on the tender side and must be protected.

Winter honeysuckle is another early forcing shrub. In fact, it blooms outdoors in January or early February. It may be cut now and forced. It is known as Lonicera fragrantissima and abounds in local gardens.

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Speaking Of Culture

Winston's Council 'Old Timer'

(Note — Winston-Salem has a new and handsome roof over its arts: a Civic Center with room for the performing groups and the Arts Council, which has been at work a decade to strengthen the cultural life of the city. The News sent Mrs. Harriet Doar to see how the new method of support works in a neighboring Piedmont city. This is the second of three articles on Winston-Salem's cultural profile.—Editors, The News.)

* * *

By HARRIET DOAR

WINSTON-SALEM — The Arts Council of Winston-Salem will celebrate its 10th birthday next year, and as Arts Councils go, that is quite a ripe age.

The Arts Council movement grew out of the 40s and is spreading like a grass fire in the 50s. Councils may be little more than a clearing-house; they may be primarily fund-raising groups; or they may, like Winston-Salem's, combine these with a variety of functions as central focus for the performing arts and the cultural organizations.

Phil Hanes is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Arts Council in Winston-Salem. R. Philip Hanes Jr. is the son of Ralph Hanes, chairman of the board of Hanes Dye and Finishing Co., and is vice president of the firm.

He is a young man and vitally interested in the creative arts, while his more reserved father finds his major cultural interests in the city's concert series, the work of the Moravian Music Foundation, and the restoration of Old Salem.

The Restoration should be complete by 1966, the 200th anniversary of the founding of Salem by the Moravians, who trace their religious ancestry back to the martyred John Huss. Salem was a planned town with a communal life—"communal, not communistic," Ralph Hanes emphasizes — and it still takes easily to planning.

"Ours wasn't the first Arts Council started," Phil Hanes told me as we rolled along toward the Community Center. "But something happened to the first one, and we're still going strong."

We had piled the back seat of his little Volkswagen with coats and paraphernalia, and by the time we'd made the rounds we had accumulated so many pamphlets and notes that we were threatened with an avalanche at every red light.

The Council became a legal reality in August, 1949, with the development of educational, cultural and religious activities . . ." It was the outgrowth of a Festival Week in which the local groups co-operated, and was aided by the Junior League which provided not only an expert consultant but $7,200 for the beginning organization.

"Don't know what we would have done, or would do now, without the League," one board member said. "It's a mainstay."

While the Hanes Community Center, like All Gaul, is divided into three parts, the Arts Council must account for close to half the expenditure, particularly in equipment. A primary function of the Council is to keep the Arts section in operation, scheduling meetings, rehearsals, classes, and office work.

The Council itself has a staff of two: the executive secretary, Charles Mark, and his administrative assistant, Harriet H. Robbins. Professional staffs are small, perhaps a dozen among the producing groups.

A large number of volunteers help to keep the Council and members functioning; more than 400 work in the annual drive for funds. Money raised is used to support the Council, maintain the building, and pay the deficits of member groups.

"But this is just a part of our work," Mrs. Robbins pointed out. "The Arts Council is a service organization. We don't try to impose our services on the members, but we exist to help them."

The list of services is impressive. It includes:

Keeping the building and schedules running smoothly.

Annual list of programs and monthly arts calendar for the entire membership.

Central clerical facilities, including duplicator and Addressograph, with bulk buying of supplies.

Central mailing system, with master list and separate tabbing for each organization.

"The Crucible" was one of the Winston-Salem Little Theater's outstanding performances. In addition to the Little Theater program, children's productions are put on through the Children's Theater Board.

Management counseling, including assistance with ticket sales and membership campaigns.

Public relations and publicity, with workshops, brochures, clipping service, TV spot announcement slides, and Kodachrome slides.

Regular radio program of classical music and local art news.

This past year the Council coordinated a ten-group "Showcase" program as a thank-you to the Community for the new building and to display its uses. Another year, an art series was packaged for neighboring towns. An Endowment Fund has been started, the income to be used for member groups after a sufficient amount is raised.

For the future, there are various plans, among them, Phil Hanes pointed out, a Tri-City Orchestra, to present programs in Greensboro and High Point as well as Winston-Salem.

"We already have orchestra members from there," he said. "And from Charlotte, too."

He thinks there is unlimited opportunity in the region. "We're all tremendously interested in what you're doing in Charlotte now," he went on, referring to the local Fine Arts Council and the recently established Charlotte Arts Fund. "We can make this whole section a center for the active arts. This is just a beginning."

* * *

TOMORROW: Who's Responsible?

WON'T SAG — Jersey, that versatile fabric so popular for spring, in a rosy red shade fashions this coat which covers a sheath dress in silk print. The print is also used for the coat lining as designed by Addie Masters. An elegant and graceful costume for the spring cruise.

Jersey Ideal Material For Spring Wardrobe

A favored spot in wardrobe popularity this spring will be occupied by jersey, famous for its soft-feeling texture, a primary fashion requisite for the months ahead. The soft, uncluttered look is THE LOOK for spring 1959, and of all the fabrics available, nothing enhances this natural silhouette better than jersey.

The non-sag has been handled with loving care by designers both here and in California, and the resultant designs are generating excitement in the coat, suit, dress and sportswear markets.

The California point of view is shown in Addie Masters' ingenious design, a full-length jersey cocktail coat over a silk print sheath dress. Suits, dresses and slacks are treated with like skill.

Thus, for a host of uses, jersey is the designer's pet. It will conceal or reveal besides giving good wearing performance and warmth without weight.

Fold strawberries (fresh or thawed and drained frozen) into sweetened whipped cream flavored with vanilla and orange rind; serve with lady fingers.

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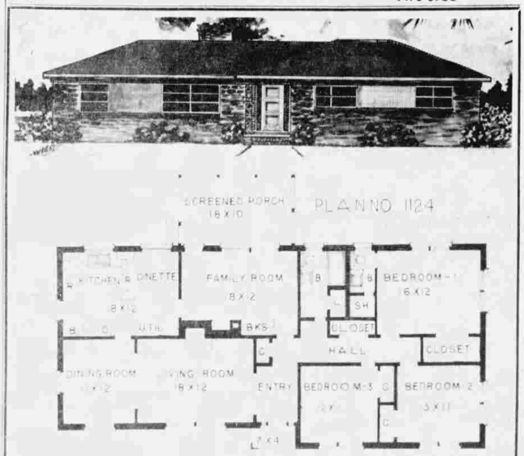

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