

ACROSS THE Editor's Desk

EARLY last autumn Christine Holbrook, of our editorial staff, visited Jamestown, Virginia, and while there purchased two pots of ivy which she brought home for her window garden. Whether this ivy was of the original plantings of the colonists or not, she will always feel that it bears some of the faint fragrance of early American tradition. Williamsburg, Charleston, New Orleans, San Juan Capistrano Mission, Valley Forge, Central City, Santa Fe, Custer's Battlefield—these are just a few of the places where you may be able to find plants for your memory garden. Did you ever think of setting aside a corner for such things?

HORACE B. PASSMORE, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, tells of a large insect, heavily laden with a locust, creeping up the side of his garage, up the roof to the peak, then off the gable into the air, using the garage as a take-off. This might have been mere chance, but it looks like evidence of unusual intelligence. Mr. Passmore was vastly entertained by this performance, and it gives a hint of what any one of you may find in your garden if you will look closely enough. There are worlds of wonders in a tiny clod of soil and in the chalice of a flower, if you have eyes that hunger for beauty and the wonder of life.

A GARDEN of good deeds bears rare flowers of gratitude. Willis N. Holden's neighbors, at Acton, Massachusetts, remembered that on many occasions he had helped them with their gardening, and so, on his 73rd birthday, they gathered at his home and, in accordance with his own ideas, landscaped his garden with rare wildflowers and cactus plants. Eighteen men and women and a team of horses did the job, working from morning until sunset.

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER

IF WE hear from you frequently as to the articles you prefer, it guides us to the best selections for the future. And that's how you help edit the magazine. Here's the way it works: Allen I. Bergy, of Alma, Michigan, listed the articles in the October issue which he particularly liked. Here they are: "Highlights on Glassware," "Highlights on Pottery," "Books Also Decorate," "Sorry, But You're Wrong," "Plant Jeweled Shrubs," "Let's Plant Something New," and "He-man Hobbies."

HERE is a modern example of an old-fashioned but always interesting material, cast-iron grillwork, used to shelter and embellish the entrance to the new home of John Normile, our architect-editor. The design was worked out from stock patterns, and, painted white, it harmonizes well with the painted brick walls of the house itself. Flanked by a pair of beautiful carriage lamps (purchased off an original phaeton in Quebec) and approached from a sidewalk and platform of red brick, the whole composition expresses warmth and hospitality, as a true doorway should.

THE exuberant spirit of new home-building is in the air everywhere. "We will begin building our new home in about a month," writes Mrs. Hugh Cawthon, of Kenneth, Missouri. "I want to tell you that *Better Homes & Gardens* has been a great joy and help in drawing up our plans. Our little seven room Colonial cottage will be more comfortable from having carried out many of the ideas found in your magazine. I have spent days and days going back thru its every issue of the past two years, searching for new ideas and suggestions." As you will see by our first article, "Your Home Dollars Will Grow," the year 1937 is sure to witness a big substantial building boom. Fortunate are those who do their building early, before prices get too high. Before the end of the year there will be literally millions of people feeling just as Mrs. Cawthon does. The idea is contagious. In accordance with the certainty of so much home-building we are going to present in 1937 far more useful and inspirational articles on home-building and furnishing than ever before. Unquestionably this will be the greatest year in the history of *Better Homes & Gardens*.

WITH the increased interest in building and remodeling, many of your friends may be developing that home-owning "germ" to fever pitch. Future issues of *Better Homes & Gardens* are going to be of great interest and of real help to these people. Why not tell them about the magazine and call their attention to the order form inside the front cover? Better yet, send them a gift subscription. They will be ever so grateful for your thoughtfulness. It will be a continuing present for all months of the coming year.

GREAT economic forces have been at work for a long time. In the life of a nation there are huge waves, an ebb and flow. We have all been impatient for these forces to bear fruit. Now it seems that all economic factors are favorable to a strong, definite, forward movement, and the year 1937 should be indeed the Happy New Year that means comfort and happiness to the people. That is our wish to you as we face the dawn.

Editor

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Cover Photograph by R. R. Donnelley

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Home Offices: 1714 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa.
Manuscripts submitted to the magazine must be accompanied by postage for their return, else we cannot be responsible for them.

Advertising Branch Offices: New York City, 420 Philadelphia, 133 So. Twelfth St.; Chicago, 333 N. Michigan Ave.; Detroit, 5-145 General Motors Bldg.; Minneapolis, 635 Palace Bldg.; San Francisco, 100 Bush St.; Los Angeles, 1212 Lincoln Bldg.; Atlanta, Georgia, 417 Grant Bldg.

Subscription: United States and Canada rates, one year, \$1; two years, \$1.50; three years, \$2. Other countries, \$1.50 a year. At newsstands, twentieth of the month, 10 cents a copy. Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Copyrighted by Meredith Publishing Company, 1937. United States and Canada. Trademarks for *Better Homes & Gardens* have been registered in the United States and Canada.

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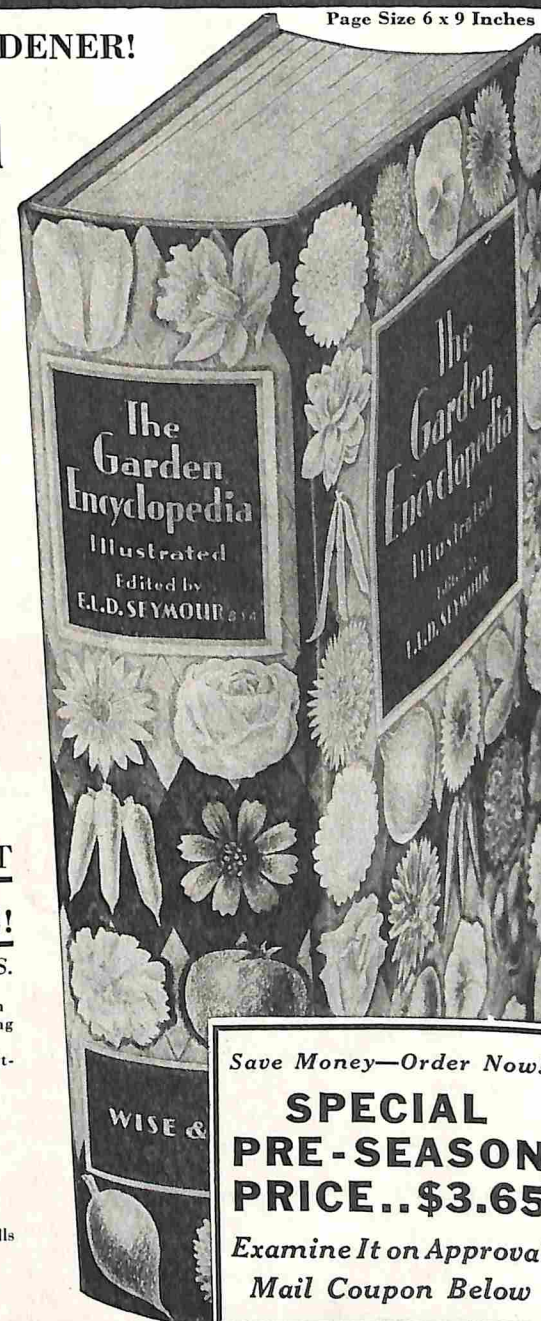
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