



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

FRESH FLOWERS FOR DECORATION

Flower Places Instead of Fireplaces—Flower Furniture—Unusual and Over-Scale Containers.

Time was, in the not so very long ago, when a lady's garden was really the family pharmacy. And in her "still room" she brewed and kept the herbs and gums and spices and roots that she used for medicinals. For the poppy water, the potion of honeysuckle leaves, the elixir of primroses, the carnation conserve . . . and all the other home-remedies the family depended upon before there were many doctors or much scientific knowledge.

Now that we grow our flowers for pure delight, we lavish our time and affection on the decorative role of flowers in our homes. And truly they have their place of importance in the summer scene.

The Flower-Place

The vogue for the flower-place is a nice idea—it can be planned in the fireplace for summer simply by keeping that dark cavern filled with flowers. A good container is important, something that's big enough for big flowers and in the right proportion for the fire opening—a rectangular fish tank is often the best answer. If you don't have a fireplace, have your flower-place in a pleasant window or in front of a mirror.

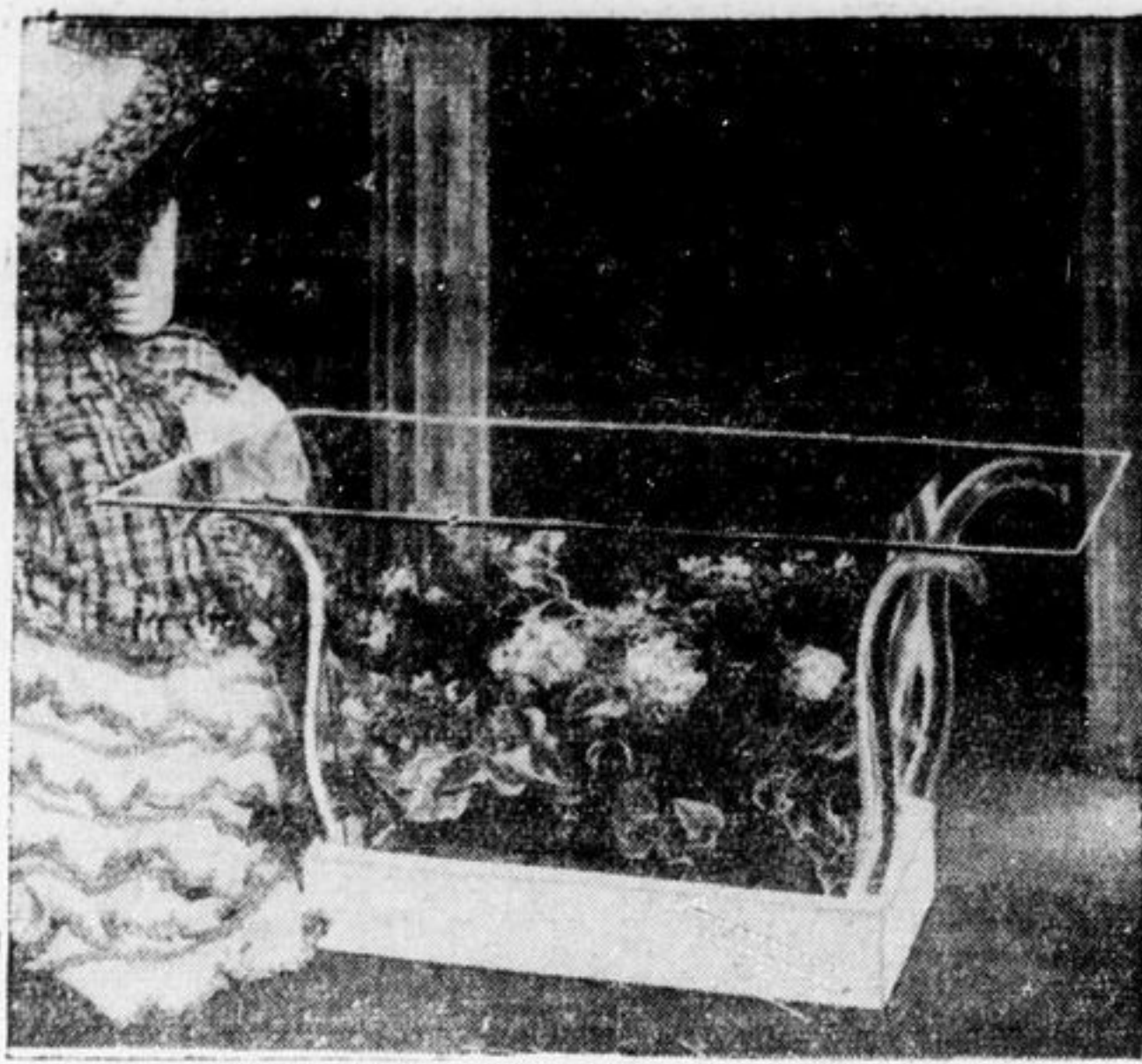
Our next favorite way with flowers in decoration is to mass them on each shelf of a corner cupboard. This can be a demure arrangement of small blossoms or it can be a spectacular big effect. The proper containers are important here too—usually glass globes work best for such an idea. A whole row of small containers across the back of a buffet, along a mantel shelf or window sill can create a charming stylized arrangement.

Furnish With Flowers
Tall floor size containers for branches and big flowers can be used dramatically in such a way as to help really "furnish" the room. An epergne, one of these glass affairs with several tiers, lends itself to beautiful flower arrangements. So do those water globes and the many alluring glass tubes and table holders. Old scales of metal and new ones of brass suggest unusual designs with flowers.

Almost as important as the flowers are those little arranger gadgets that help make the flowers do what you want them to. And be sure to have, in this bag of tricks, some heavy holders with enough weight to hold big flowers. A collection of stones is a help along with chicken wire.

Flowers and plant furniture has been revived of recent years, so now there are many charming tables with copper-lined compartments for pots or vases. Dumb waiter tier tables are very adaptable for mass arrangements of cut flowers in uniform containers, or set in a sunny window they provide an attractive stand for pots of plants. Various wire stands and racks are likewise charming for miniature conservatories in sunny windows.

For Branches
As handsome a way of using greenery in decoration is to have a copper trash built in the top of a tall piece of furniture, such as a highboy or breakfront, to hold a mass of water plants or broad leaved branches. Another idea is to use the boughs of shining



This unusual planter, designed by Cora Seovil, was shown recently at the Flower Show. It is of glass and lucite, that new crystal-like plastic material.

waxy leaves in white urns set on tall white colonnades at either side of an important entrance.

Wall brackets for flowers or vines aren't new, but they continue to add delightful designs to wall spaces and to include fresh things in the decorative scheme of the room.

As for the old and alluring art of flower arranging, there is more about that in my bulletin "Principles of Flower Arranging" which will be sent to you on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Address me care of this paper.

Pessimistic Talk Does Not Help in Winning War

The following is a timely letter published in The Toronto Telegram last week:

Editor, Telegram:
Sir,—To-day is a time for confidence in our leaders, our cause, our fighting services and the people of Britain, who are bearing the brunt of this war so valiantly. There are too many people to-day ready to criticize our efforts as soon as operations are less rosy and adopt a pessimistic tone, asking, "Why haven't we done this?" and "Why didn't we do that?"

I am sure the majority of us realize that things cannot always go the way we expect them to and we must be ready to take the rough with the smooth in true British sporting spirit. We have many glorious victories on the sea, in the air and on the land to our credit, and nobody doubts we shall have many more, but as Winston Churchill and other leaders have said in the past, "It is a grim struggle," and we must be prepared for reverses and sacrifices.

In time like the present it is up to us all, especially those of us who are not having to face the terror and horrors of war, to firmly uphold the Brit-

ish spirit and refrain from criticising within our own circles the men and women who are doing the job. Over-confidence in our efforts is foolish, and I am sure we all realize that; but it is better than pessimism, for pessimism is exactly what Hitler and his "gang" try to spread throughout the world, and if you spread pessimism and unduly criticize those who are doing their best for us, it is playing Hitler's game and at the same time showing a great lack of gratitude to those actually doing the fighting and making great sacrifices.

So let us all try to keep level heads in these difficult times; help all we can by subscribing to war charities and war saving certificates, and finally, doing our jobs faithfully and conscientiously. With that spirit in our hearts and in our homes we are helping our cause to final victory. Jump on our radio strategists don't try to explain away our bumps so that they hurt so much worse at a later date.

Boon To Mankind

Hold your hats, boys, we are going to ask you to believe something that will test your faith in our veracity and accuracy.
But it is the truth—the unvarnished and ungarmented truth.
A man said in a complaining voice yesterday:
"Gosh, ain't it hot and sticky?"
Incidentally we are chiefly responsible for this warm and glorious April weather.

About a week ago we had a decision to make.
We had to decide whether to keep our furnace going or whether to make another cold snap inevitable by letting it out.

We didn't need any heat, but we knew that the weather would immediately drop to freezing the minute the last spark died in our fire box.

So we shovelled coal—and the city enjoyed lovely weather.
Cosmetics and explosives are all made from the same ingredient. Glycerine is the base.

It is hard to say which causes the greater devastation.
However, the time may come when there won't be enough glycerine to go around.

It may be all needed for blasting powder—and the girls will just have to wash their faces for a change.

Not Dimayed
An English despatch says: "Racing and soccer attracted big gates and 20,000 people watched Bradford Northern defeat Wigan 28-9 in the rugby league championship final."

Incidentally, the British rugby season does not conform with our own.

Advices Cool and Unruffled Outlook on News of War

Uncertainty in Modern War Foreign Stuff. National Obstacles.

Writing last week in his column in The Toronto Telegram, Thomas Richard Henry says:—

Keep Cool

For our peace of mind, probably we should not become too elated over victories, or too cast down over defeats. There is nothing enduring in modern warfare.

It is fluid rather than static. You can chase an enemy for a thousand miles—then get chased right back again—and don't we know it.

Foreign? ? ?

A Canadian firm of radio manufacturers advises the public to "listen to foreign broadcasts in English from London, Berlin, Rome, etc."

Well, they put London first. **Natural Obstacles**
There is group of set phrases that we wish military men and newspapermen would forget.

They are the myths about the impossibility of doing this or that "in mountainous terrain," "during the rainy season," "over the desert sands," and so on.

The first time we heard these was when the terrain was going to beat the Heel of Italy from putting his foot down in Ethiopia.

Since then neither mountains, nor sand, nor rain nor anything in nature have been able to stop a modern army after it has started to roll.

Nothing but a bigger army—or God. **Sugar Coating**

The British press does well to demand the sugar coating be removed from the news.

We got a terrible shock when we thought we were winning in Norway and found we were not.

It isn't that we are told anything that isn't true.

It's the confident way that the BBC man says our withdrawal "is according to plan" that misleads one if we are simply being pushed around.

We hope our leaders keep their eyes on the distant goal, no matter how it may look at the moment—but we hope radio strategists don't try to explain away our bumps so that they hurt so much worse at a later date.

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Sailors of H. M. S. George V Appreciate the Red Cross

The 1,200 British seamen on England's battleship, George V, received a warm demonstration of welcome when they brought Lord Halifax to the United States, but when they visited a Canadian port the welcome was even more tangible. Each sailor was completely outfitted with warm clothing by the Canadian Red Cross.

When the huge battleship arrived in port, officials of the Red Cross went on board and offered to the commander, G. G. Pugh Cook, any assistance he might need for his men. The Englishman, with native reticence, presented quite a modest list of comforts adding he would be grateful if the requisition could be filled because his men did not have sufficient warm clothing. Red Cross officials delivered the goods; Commander Pugh Cook was most appreciative.

Later on, however, the George V turned up in another port where different Red Cross officials told Commander Pugh Cook woolen comforts for the sailors could be placed at his disposal. It was then that the commander admitted he could still use many more sweaters, helmets, mitts and so forth but that he thought outfitting 1,200 British sailors was asking too much of Canadian generosity. Since the Canadian Red Cross maintains supplies worth \$100,000 just to equip needy sailors, the British commander's second requisition was readily filled and every seaman on the George V got his share of woolen comforts.

"It was a very pleasant proof of the spirit behind Canada's effort," Commander Pugh Cook wrote Red Cross officials when he acknowledged the supplies. "I wish to convey the thanks not only of myself, but of the entire ship's company for the huge consignment of really magnificent comforts received on board, but I am painfully aware of my inability to do so adequately. The generosity of the organization and the sheer hard work which one knows were all necessary to make such a shipping order possible, are rather staggering and I regard the result not only as so many garments, each helping to make a sailor more comfortable and more efficient, but as a very pleasant proof of the spirit behind Canada's war effort. Please accept the most grateful thanks and very best wishes of us all." To date the Canadian Red Cross has spent \$266,000 in supplies and facilities for sailors in Canadian ports.

Strange

A group of young ladies came out of a millinery shop the other day. Giggles rose in volume as the door closed behind them.

Over the rising tide of their mirth we learned that one of them had tripped on a hat backwards.

What amazed us was who discovered the error and how it was done.

Air Force Blues

A cadet's sister writes:
"My brother, who is at the Manning Pool, has been unable to obtain his size of a service cap, cost (85c). However, the boys can get downtown and buy all they want at \$2.50 of all sizes. Why can't Manning Pool get delivery of all popular sizes?"

"What-alife—2 Weeks in Service" writes:
"Last week-end at Trenton when all the boys were given their week-end, a staff car drove along the highway making the cadets keep to the sidewalk and not show motorists that they would like a lift—and it certainly is a long walk from Trenton to Montreal or Toronto."

In service two weeks and out on leave! !
What-alife indeed.

Gold Lace

The United States Navy has announced that the threatened shortage of gold lace has been relieved.

Solving of this problem is the main triumph of the U.S. Navy in this war so far—but give them time.

Fundamental Principles
There are those among us who believe that this war is a clash of fundamental principles, rather than a fight between our own nation and others.

One principle is fairness, justice and equity in the relationship between nations.

The other is the right of every nation to enslave other nations if it can assemble enough military strength.

Russia and Japan belong to the second classification, no matter who they sign up with for the moment.

Regimentation
Old Red Patch writes:
"Let's all do like the Germans do."
"Surely there is some way of suppressing such drivel as expounded by YMCA Director Angus M. Dewar, who, in addressing the Young Men's Advertising and Sales Club, said he would like to see all dance halls and theatres closed so that the youth of Canada would have no alternative than to join the YMCA, where they can attain mental and physical perfection as they have done in Germany."

Paraphrased
The Riverdale Kiwanis bulletin credits Hitler with the remark:
"Never have so few taken so much from so many."

Maybe! But before the British stop fighting Hitler may have cause to say of the 80,000,000 people in Germany:
"Never have so many taken so much from so few," and it will be almost as true as Churchill's great sentence that started it all.

Of course for Mussolini the paraphrasing is obvious:
"Never have so many run so fast from so few."

As we have said before, there should be a clear distinction made between our engagements with the Italians, and our engagements with the enemy.

Heads "Blitz" Doctors



Canada's newest and most exciting army unit is now being organized in Toronto. Its members will do no fighting and carry no guns, but they'll see all the action that's going and then some. Officially they call it the 7th Light Field Ambulance but in army slang they're the "blitz doctors." Attached to the 1st Canadian Armoured Division their job is to ride along with the tanks and armoured trucks and motorcycles, handling the wounded as they go, clearing them out to the rear. To head this thunderbolt of medical action the army has chosen its youngest R.C.A.M.F. lieutenant-colonel. He is Lieutenant-Col. M. C. Watson.

GETTING IT WRONG

The park orator made frequent references to Darwin's "Origin of Species."
A tall man and his short companion hung on to the outskirts of the crowd, but were unable to get near the speaker.
"What's his lay, Bill?" asked the small man, tired of craning his neck to no purpose.
"Eat more fruit, I think," replied the other. "All he keeps talking about is Darwin's oranges and peaches."—Globe and Mail.

Exchange—Father might be the chief justice in his home, but he certainly gets over ruled.

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