



**BONWILL COLUMN**

Years ago, reading Catherine Parr Trail's advice to Canadian settlers, we had come across her advice about the early barren look of a log cabin.

"Go out into the woods," she said, "and find an Alleghaney vine. They transplant easily, climb well up the porch posts, and bloom all summer."

Well, we've been looking for about ten years - and the search has now been successful, though not through any special efforts of our own.

Instead, the search is now successful because of the widening of the Lake Opinicon Road, especially the section in Bedford Township, between Crystal Spring Farm, and Skycroft.

We have just learned the reason for the sudden appearance of a plant which had been missing for many, many years.

It seems that when you remove about 6 inches of topsoil, you release into the air and sunshine the seeds of plants which grew in that area about 100 years ago.

So the Alleghany vine, or climbing fumitory, a relative of the columbine, is now common along the sides of the highway where we have mentioned.

To find it, look for a trailing vine, with delicate leaves, much cut and lacinated, of a pale green. The flowers, which grow in great profusion, are pale pink, and are produced by the hundreds. Flowers seem to be in evidence from mid-July on to frost-time.

We have tried to spread these, by moving them in the fall, but that does not seem to be successful.

Now, we are trying gathering handfuls of the dead blossoms, and planting these where we would like new plants to appear.

Next spring, we shall also begin moving some seedling plants, seeking out places where they are plentiful. The attractive foliage appears in pale green mounds, and is easily spotted along the roughest areas of the roadsides, often near rocks, at the edge of the travelled sections.

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