

# "Each Square a Park, Each Vacant Lot in Bloom," So Would Washington Become City Beautiful

People's Garden Association Has Happy Vision of Transforming City From the Commonplace to the Classic.

Lamont Street Residents Began Last Summer and Here Is the Story of Their Practical Exemplification of the Idea.

By MRS. L. H. V. BIEN.

Every block of houses a park of homes and all vacant lots in bloom the enticing vision and happy object of the "People's Gardens Association" of Washington. Realized through the co-operation of the householders, it will transform Washington from the commonplace to the classic.

Through the inspiration of the association, a group of residents on Lamont street between Eleventh and Thirteenth streets, worked in unison last summer for the general improvement of their front lawns, treating them as a whole rather than in single patches.

This effort toward street beautification led to a utility side of the endeavor. The children had to be cared for. If their haphazard playground were to be turned into a park, and the park maintained, they must be provided for elsewhere. A Garden Club was the substitute.

Of the many schemes advanced for a solution of the high cost of living problem, the most practical has been the organization of the garden clubs for the cultivation of vacant lots, where enough vegetables have been grown in individual cases, at least, to supply a family for a year with potatoes, to say nothing of the green varieties during the summer time.

In Washington, on Lamont street, a meeting called at the home of one of the residents for the purpose of interesting the citizens along these lines, though both men and women were present, the women were the more expressive.

Murmurs of Doubt. At first there was a murmuring of doubt as to the feasibility of such a plan. Without the spur of necessity, it was feared that the children would prove too slack gardeners. In the end, however, the measure was carried, and the matter placed in the hands of a committee of women.

This first meeting was followed by a lecture by Eriстов Adams illustrating the success of a movement kind in other parts of the city.

Mr. Adams also gave the most practical advice as to the sort of shrub to plant, where an expanse of ground would permit, the different kinds of spruce, hemlock, Norway spruce, and burning bush, and of vines, the woodbine and honeysuckle, all having been mentioned.

Mr. Adams also emphasized the need of creating the lawn as a lake, not so full of islands that no blue could be seen, but a clear, bright sheet of water, its shores foliage-clad and rich in bloom. Shrubs and flowers should be banked against foundations, or, if away from them, grouped in clumps above all, they should not be scattered.

Plan of the Gardens. In planting the gardens, the first row of each one, running parallel with the longer of the two central paths, was of dwarf nasturtiums and the second of parsley. This much was compulsory in adhering to a general plan which should consider their artistic feature. This complied with the children were allowed to plant whatever seeds they wished in half of their gardens. The other half was reserved for tomato plants.

Bordering the entire plot along its length on each street was planted a row of geraniums to give a charming line of color between the parking and gardens during the entire summer.

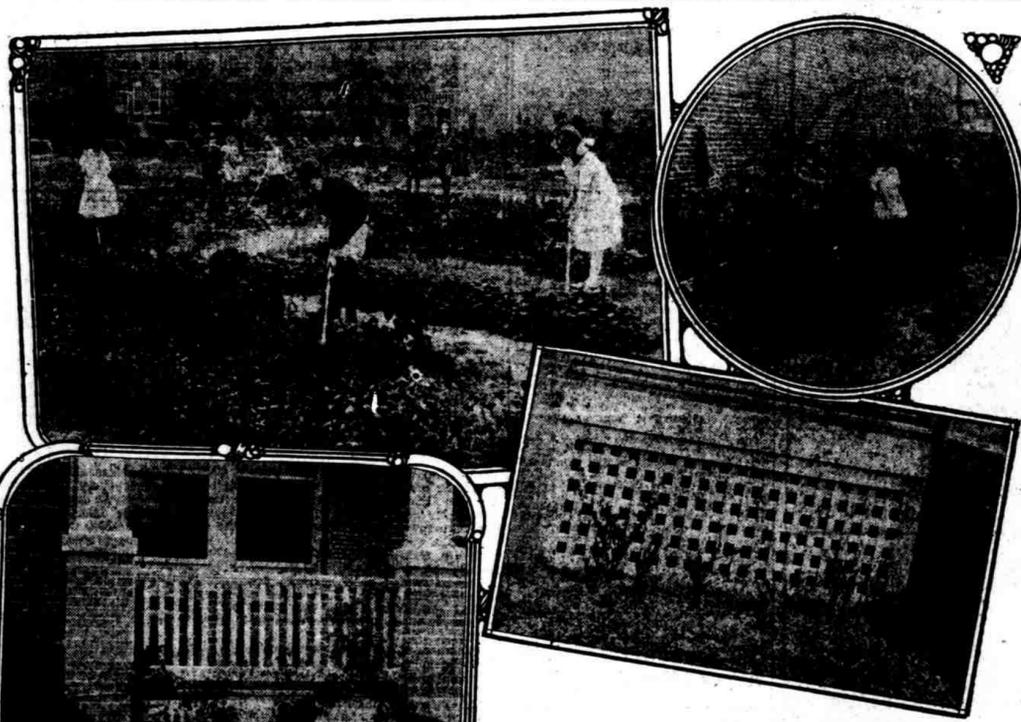
Along the length of a brick wall, which marked one of the gardens, the moon vine and tacked up twine upon which to train it. In front of this was planted a row of castor beans and in front of the beans, cosmos.

A long board fence which extended on from this wall, they covered with lima beans.

The children all provided with gardens, there was still some ground left unappropriated. This, the women cultivated with their own hands throughout the summer. Thus, through their own individual efforts, they effectually lowered their cost of living.

Indeed, the entire vicinity became enthusiastic over the garden idea, its value to the children and household, and the improvement to the street, the trim corner made.

A great many radishes, string beans, and a quantity of parsley were grown and sold, each child being allowed whatever he could earn from the produce of his own garden. Beets came next and tomatoes were legion.



Above—Wall and Fence Beautified With Moon Vines, Castor Beans, Cosmos, and Lima Bean Vines.



Above—The Children's Garden in Lamont Street Northwest. Below—Attractive Banking of Hardy Ferns and Nasturtiums in Front of Wisteria Vines.

paths two feet in width separated the gardens from each other. The seeds were furnished the children by the People's Garden Association. Tools, the children obtained for themselves, a double-bladed hoe, one-side forked, and a small spade being the essentials.

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The crops of the women were still more abundant. They became ambitious. Peas, corn, turnips, bunch-beans, squashes, peppers, okra, and even peanuts were cultivated with untiring zeal, all of which netted them a clear profit for table use.

Prize Is Awarded. When the time came for the closing of the children's gardens on account of the fall term of school, a prize of \$3.00 was given to the child who had shown the combined result of the best work done, the most produce gathered, and who had been the most prompt and faithful in attendance. In this case the prize winner was Robert Dix. His picture is the little boy in the center foreground with dark sweater and white trousers, "looking hard."

A sedamian of the city, a man of royal heart and Sir Walter Raleigh chivalry, who had walked by the gardens every day all summer long and had noted the earnest efforts to make a hard, trashy vacant lot blossom, sent word that he would take pleasure in having the lot plowed, enriched, and seeded in rice for the benefit of the next year's crop at his own expense.

## WATCH IS CLUE TO 15-YEAR MYSTERY

Timepiece Found in Skeleton That Had Been Washed From Shallow Grave.

With the initials, "J. J. T.," on an old silver watch as their only clue, the Washington police today are working to solve the fifteen-year-old mystery of the identity of a dead man washed upon the beach on the Maryland shore of the Potomac, near Indian Head.

The watch is in the possession of naval officers at Indian Head, who are co-operating with the Maryland authorities in an endeavor to solve the mystery. It was recovered from a perfectly preserved skeleton found on a Bump Neck. The clothing, in a fair state of preservation, hung upon the skeleton, which was bare of flesh.

The watch was in one of the pockets. When the discovery was made last Friday it was believed that the authorities had a new mystery on their hands. George Wheeler, an old resident of Charles county, came forward and explained that the skeleton probably was that of a man who was given shallow burial on the shore fifteen years ago.

Thousands to Be Invited To Barry Statue Rites. Several thousands of invitations are to be sent out from the office of Col. W. W. Harris, U. S. A., in charge of public buildings and grounds, for the unveiling of the Commodore John Barry statue in Franklin Park, to be held May 16.

Municipal Matrons to Censor Public Tanguing. BOSTON, March 29.—The recommendation by Dr. Walter E. Fernald, chairman of the white-slave commission, will result in municipal matrons being present at all public dance halls where the tango and one-step are permitted, if legislation to be voted upon at the statehouse tomorrow is passed.

Rhode Island Will Make Divorce Hard. Providence, R. I., March 29.—"Divorces by absent treatment," such as were recently granted in Newport to Mrs. Anous Tardé French and to Mrs. Robert Golet, have aroused a storm of protest throughout the State.

Bureau of Fisheries Gets \$25,000 as Its Share of Panama Exposition Fund. Of the \$57,500 allowed to the Department of Commerce for its representation at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, \$2,000 has been given to the Bureau of Fisheries, which will show aquariums, fish hatcheries, and exhibits of the pearl button industry and the Alaskan fisheries and fur industries.

Havenner to Head Commerce Exhibits. Chief Clerk Havenner will be in charge of the department's force at the exposition. Charles E. Sloane will have charge of the exhibit of the Census Bureau; E. A. Brand, Foreign and Domestic Commerce; Frank A. Wolf, Bureau of Standards; Irving H. Dunlap, Bureau of Fisheries; John B. Conway, Lighthouse; William A. Parker, Coast and Geodetic Survey; V. F. Graves, Bureau of Navigation.

A Statement About Milk. Twenty months ago I was charged with selling unclean milk. I at once put in a clarifier and have used it ever since. At that time I was pasteurizing all my milk, and I have every reason to believe that the sample which was the cause of bringing me into court was taken by the health department during the three days in which my pasteurizer was out of order because of cracked coils.

Unless you have seen this wonderful clarifier in operation and the results it accomplishes you cannot fully comprehend its properties; you cannot realize how much sediment it removes from the ordinary milk as it comes from the country; and it will be a great pleasure to me to have you call and see it in operation.

The very fact that I am one of the four dairymen who have been granted permit cards to serve the different bureaus of the District and Federal government is evidence enough that the milk I serve is right when delivered.

With up-to-date machinery for clarifying and pasteurizing for cleaning and filling bottles, I do not hesitate to state that the milk distributed by me is as clean and less contaminated as it is possible to produce.

Respectfully yours, J. W. GREGG.

## MISS BAKER TO LEAD PAGEANT DANCERS

Daughter of Zoo Director Will Be a Director in "The Fire Regained."

Recognized as a competent exponent of Greek dancing, Miss Effie Baker, daughter of Dr. Frank Baker, director of the Zoo, has consented to direct the Greek pageant-drama to be given here in May. The members of the executive committee in charge of the pageant are related over having obtained the services of Miss Baker.

Another cause for elation on the part of those in charge of the affair is the announcement that George Laak, a well-known stage director, who last year was stage manager at Poli's Theater, will arrive in Washington tomorrow to take entire charge of the production.

Headquarters in the old Builders' Exchange Building, the use of which has been permitted free by Frank Walter, the owner, will be opened tomorrow afternoon. The entire second floor of the building will be utilized by the committee, both for administration purposes and for rehearsals.

Committees Named for Richmond Park Society. Richard Parry, president of the recently organized Richmond Park Citizens' Association, has announced the following committees:

Constitution and by-laws—Ben Kabasky, Arthur W. Davidson and George H. Girty. Publicity—P. H. McGowan, J. E. Smealwood, Ralph A. Graves and George L. Beck.

Membership—R. Lynn, J. M. Lowenthal, Miss Clara B. Stitz and Miss Katherine Moran. Parks and parking—Z. D. Blackstone, Harry Epps, Louis P. Allen, Miss Elizabeth Edna Marshall, Mrs. Sallie Nairn and Mrs. Helen Moore.

Arguers Club Holds Fifth Annual Banquet. Impersonations of men of national and local importance, featured the fifth annual banquet of the Arguers Club held at the Sterling Hotel last night. The banquet committee was composed of Walter D. Johnson, W. Burdette and John Victory.

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## Says Fertilizer Plants Raise Price of Fish

Charges that the fertilizer factories along the Potomac river are using such a large supply of herring in their plants as to cause a serious shortage in the food supply and a large increase in the price have been brought to the attention of the District authorities by John T. Jones, a former District oyster inspector.

Mr. Jones declares that the factories use 11,000,000 herring in a single season. The price of salted herring, he says, has increased from \$1.75 to \$6 a barrel. The United States engineer office has notified fishermen that they must keep their nets within certain bounds, out of deep water.

This is designed to curtail the catch of herring at the mouth of the river, and to allow them to come up the river to their spawning ground in fresh water.

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- 35371—Kiss Me Good-Night—A Ragtime Dream—Honey You Were Made for Me—Trot, Victor Military Band.
- 35372—Kiss Me Good-Night—A Ragtime Dream—Honey You Were Made for Me—Trot, Victor Military Band.
- 35373—Kiss Me Good-Night—A Ragtime Dream—Honey You Were Made for Me—Trot, Victor Military Band.
- 17553—Castle Walk—One-Step or Trot. (Jas. Europe-Dabney) Europe's Orchestra. You're Here and You're Gone—One-Step. (From "Laughing Husband"). (Jerome D. Kern), Europe's Orchestra, 10.
- 35374—Congratulations Waltz (Castle's Lane Duck)—Hestiation or Boston. (Jas. Europe), Europe's Orchestra, 12.
- 35375—Gems from "Gems of the Movies" (Paulton-MacDonough-Gilbert). Victor Light Opera Co. Chorus. "Girls Run Along"—Duet, "Forgive and Forget"—Solo and Chorus. "In the Night" (When the Moon Sits Winks)—Duet, "Who is to Know"—Duet and Chorus. "Oh, Cecilia"—Flute, "In the Night" (When the Moon Sits Winks)—Solo and Chorus. "My Faithful Stradivari"—Chorus. "Ha Za Za." 12.
- 17554—In the Night (When the Moon Sits Winks). (From "Gems of the Movies"). Lyric Quartet. Oh Cecilia (From "Queen of the Movies"). (Paulton-MacDonough-Gilbert). Lyric Quartet, 10.
- 70106—The Portobello Lass. Harry Lauder-Gilbert Wells. 70107—It's Not a Lie, It's a Lie in Bed! Harry Lauder.

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