

m.m.memos

It's well known to anyone who has read in this space previously that my thumbs tend to the purple rather than the green. Not black — I don't go around killing any plant I touch. But I've never had the rapport with growing green things that so many seem to enjoy.

This realistic assessment has come, however, only in fairly recent years.

Time was when I thought that a passion for digging in the earth was the American way or at the very least one true

mark of a homeowner. So at the two houses we owned previously we planted both vegetables and flowers.

Over the years, the man of our houses and I realized that gardening was not our favorite occupation. But once you start there are all those dug-up spots and it's hard to quit.

So, though we succeeded in introducing ground-cover in a few places, our home bases went on flowering year after year, tended during moments snatched often

begrudgingly from other activities. Except for tulips, which to us have a mystique that spells home and springtime, flower gardens were something we felt we could do without.

Although we had some difficulty getting out of the flower-tending business, we made our peace more quickly with not growing vegetables. We found all kinds of excuses for non-planting of corn and radishes and beans and onions and tomatoes.

They took a lot of time. They were hard to distin-



By MARGARET MILLER

This year, with a new house, things changed a bit. One of the new homeowner's most attractive features, to our strange tastes, was the fact that there were hardly any gardens to be tended. But we did make a small concession to the gardening syndrome. Our daughter and son-in-law, either more conventional or less experienced than we and thus gardeners at their first home, had some extra tomato

plants. As we headed for the new place I took a few along and found a spot for them. I should have known better. Whether it was late planting or clay soil or the those plants did practically nothing. While my daughter's tomatoes flourished, ours were a few inches high. When a couple of small green marbles finally appeared on our plants, she was bringing us bagful of spare tomatoes.

'Cinders' is next for Family Players

The Family Players begins its sixth season with a musical comedy in

slap-stick style and audience participation. "Cinders," by John

Crocker, will be performed Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 26-27 and

Nov. 2-3. Show time is 8 p.m. evenings, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, in Warner Junior High School, on 14 Mile, between Middlebelt and Northwestern Highway.

Family Players was originated by Sally Sawyer who was required to write, produce and direct an original play for completion of her degree in music.

It brought together about 10 families ranging in age from 3-71 with diverse backgrounds from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham and West Bloomfield.

Workshops in acting, theater terminology, makeup, mime, set design and construction, lighting, sound, music and dance, are all facets of membership.

The players are members now of the International Amateur Theatre Association, American Community Theatre Association and Michigan

Theatre Association. The group is affiliated with Council for the Arts of Greater West Bloomfield.

"CINDERS" is the American debut of an English musical roasting by children's tale, "Cinderella," and heralded as 'solid entertainment for the entire family.'

Verna Roberts, of Farmington Hills, takes the title role and Ron Davis, of West Bloomfield, plays the prince.

The characters of Rag, Tag and Bobtail are played by Lori Quinn, Coote Baker and Emily McSweeney, and are reminiscent of the Three Stooges.

Stepsisters Tutti and Fruiti are played by Sheryl Krause and Alan Krause.

Tickets are \$3.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children and senior citizens. Special group rates are available.

Tickets are available by calling 682-5822.



Lead players in "Cinders" are Ron Davis, of West Bloomfield, as the Prince, Jean Arkin, of Southfield, who plays the King, and Verna Roberts, of Farmington Hills, as Cinders. The play opens at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26. (Photo by Bill Gibson)

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