

Bright pictures grow in this Franklin garden

By **CARMINA BROOKS**

Summer flowers, artistically planted and carefully cultivated, serve a dual purpose in the life of Alma Schoeffel of Franklin.

"I see the beauty in flowers, and being a camera club member, I can record that beauty for myself per-

manently, and enter the photos in competition," she said.

Mrs. Schoeffel has more than 1,000 color slides of her flowers. Some of her photographs have won top honors in Motor City Camera Club competitions.

Three- and one-half years ago, Paul and Alma Schoeffel moved from their commercially zoned historic brick

house on Franklin Road into another house they owned on Wellington Road.

Mrs. Schoeffel moved some of her favorite flowers along with the house.

Lemon lilies, first bred 30 years ago by Alice Seaholm of Birmingham, have now been transplanted three times. In July of this year, more than 100 lilies in hues of orange, yellow and white with

pink-dotted centers came into full bloom in their new house.

At THE Schoeffel home, an expanse of manicured lawns shaded by huge maples and pines contributes to an aura of serenity and charm in the village center setting. The home faces the Franklin Community Church and

village green area where softball, tennis and horseback riding are daily activities.

Placed at the front entrance and side yard bordering the house, perennials are mixed with annuals. White phlox, hybrid and plantain lilies, spruce, holly, sedum, yellow primrose, peonies, fern, hydrangea, mint and jacks-in-the-bush are companions-in-color the year-round.

There was a concrete oval ornamental pool in the backyard of the Wellington Road house, once stagnant and full of debris. It is shadowed by towering pines.

Alma Schoeffel had the pool filled with good garden soil, planted a concentration of annuals inside the oval and transformed the small area into an exquisite rock garden.

A FLAGSTONE retainer wall against the rear yard line is mounded into steps and a walkway, adding beauty and design, and making it easier for the gardener to cultivate, fertilize and water the flowers.

Facing the rock garden, one gets a feeling of enclosure, of privacy — a grotto effect that gives the space a completeness. The garden is a dimensional three-tiered altar of flowers and rocks, sunshine and shade, at the same time subtle and striking.

MRS. SCHOEFFEL was born in Bremen, Germany, a seaport city where ships brought Americans to her shores. Her first childhood desire was to come to the United States. That dream came true when she was a young woman, and she has lived in the Birmingham-Franklin area most of her adult life.

Mrs. Schoeffel is much-traveled in Europe, Mexico, Canada and throughout the United States. She has recorded her travels on 17,500 color slides. Some have been incorporated into narrative presentations that have been used by local church and social service groups.

"I love to travel," she said. "The good Lord has granted us something special in this world, and I wish more people could see it."

"Life itself brings so many heartaches. After I see something beautiful, it perks me up a bit."

Mrs. Schoeffel has created something beautiful in her own backyard, and her travels and sensitivity are reflected in the touch of formality in her rock garden.

Like Alma Schoeffel, the garden commands respect.



In form, color, design and texture, the Schoeffel garden in Franklin Village ranks as a living work of art. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Yiddish arts group forming

Persons interested in joining a Jewish performing arts group with emphasis on Yiddish are asked to attend an 8 p.m. meeting Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Franklin Point Clubhouse, 26361 Franklin

Pointe Drive in Southfield. The group is being formed by the Sholem Aleichem Institute, an educational and cultural force in the community

for more than 50 years. For more information call the Sholem Aleichem Institute at 553-7040.

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