



FRAN EVERT and her Schefflera plant. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

## An Exotic Indoor Plant -- A 14-Foot Schefflera

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Special Writer

This plant may resemble Joe's beards, but actually it is a Schefflera that photographer Fran Evert has been nurturing for the past 14 years. It has grown to a height of 14 feet.

Also known as Queen-Land Umbrella Tree, Scheffleras have become popular in recent years as decorative pot plants for homes and offices. They tolerate the dry atmosphere and subdued light of the average home.

The trunk-like stem is gray and woody looking and the branches end in a rosette of palmate leaves forming umbrella-like heads.

The handsome leaves are a glossy, leathery deep green with long stalks. The young plants have three to five leaflets, but older plants have leaves with seven to 16 leaflets each, up to 18 inches in length.

In their native habitat or outdoors in Florida, the plants produce spikes of wine-red flowers, but they rarely bloom when grown indoors as house plants.

THE EVERTS Schefflera was given to them by their neighbor, Warren Wagner, when it outgrew the space available in the Wagner home. The plant, which was three or four years old, was then eight feet tall.

After it had been in the Everts' home six years, it reached the top of their high-ceilinged living room. Mrs. Evert cut it back to a two-foot stub.

From this a bud sprouted and the plant is now nine feet tall. Also, the top part of the old stalk was rooted and is now a thriving three-foot tall plant.

MRS. EVERT'S plant has been reported several times as it outgrew its container. It is now in a larger redwood tub growing in moderately rich sterilized soil purchased from a greenhouse.

A three-inch layer of pieces of broken clay flower pots was put in the bottom of the tub to help insure good drainage. The plant sits on a round metal tray which protects the floor from water that drains from the holes in the bottom of the tub.

## Granbrook Gets Wilderness Area

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Thirty-six acres of wilderness land in Oakland County have been donated to the Cranbrook Institute of Science for nature study programs and a wildlife sanctuary.

The land, which is mostly virgin timberland and has an estimated value in excess of \$200,000, is a gift of Harold Lee Ward, Pontiac.

The area will be named the Willis C. and Mabel Lee Ward Nature Study Area in memory of the donor's late parents.

The land is between Orchard and Upper Straits Lakes in Orchard Lake Village, West Bloomfield Township. There is frontage on both lakes, and the rolling land abounds with trees, flowers, and wildlife.

THE MARSH AREA and the woods shelter many birds and other forms of wildlife. Ward said, "Also, my father naturalized many rare flowers in the forest and planted several small groves of Michigan white pine along with other trees in the more open spaces."

"It is hoped," Ward continued, "that through the Institute of Science the ecology of the region will be preserved for the enjoyment, study, and research by children and other interested persons."

"This will help bring a better understanding of the environment in which we live and the necessary adaptation to those conditions that will make it possible for our people to lead healthy lives in harmony with nature."

IN GIVING THE land in memory of his parents, Ward said, "I want to honor those who did so much during their lives towards the preservation of the natural beauty not only of this land but of the entire Orchard Lake region as we know it today."

Dr. Warren L. Wittry, institute director, said the land will

be retained as a wildlife sanctuary and utilized for the extension of nature study programs now being conducted on the Institute grounds.

"It is a magnificent and generous gift," Dr. Wittry said, "one that will serve the people of the area tremendously through the stewardship of the Institute of Science."

Dr. Wittry said he is hopeful of finding a log cabin that can be dismantled and rebuilt on the Ward Nature Study Area site. "Such a building could be used," he said, "for shelter in inclement weather, for lectures, and perhaps for storage."

Ward, a retired timberman, has had a long relationship with Cranbrook. He has been a member of the Institute of Science since 1946 and was a director of Kingswood School Cranbrook for 12 years. A widower, Ward is the father of three daughters, all Kingswood alumnae.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is one of the six institutions that make up the Cranbrook educational, cultural, and religious center. The Institute is the only science museum in metropolitan Detroit and includes a planetarium, an observatory, and an auditorium. The institute also conducts educational and research programs in botany, anthropology, and zoology.

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FARMINGTON Rezoning has been approved for location of a tractor sales-service dealership in Farmington Township on Eight Mile Road west of Oak.

The rezoning of five acres from residential (RA-3) to business (B-3) was approved by a 6-1 vote of the Farmington Township Board at its last meeting.

THE ACTION followed recommendations to deny the rezoning from the township's planning commission and coordinating committee of Oakland County.

Leonard Broquet will build a Ford tractor dealership outlet on that site and move his present dealership to Farmington Township from 3670 River, Detroit. Broquet has

## Area Parks Lure Folks In Winter

The coldest Michigan winter in several years plus "mush" snowfall attracted record for near-record use at most Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority parks during the month of January.

Over 368,800 visitors used HCMA facilities last month compared to 220,600 in January of 1969 according to David O. Laidlaw, director of the authority, which has eight parks serving the counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne.

Mrs. Evert tests the soil by probing it with her finger. She uses city water now, but formerly used well water. An entire tea-kettle of water is needed each time she waters. This is generally once a week. But in cold weather when the furnace is in frequent operation and the atmosphere becomes especially dry, it may be more often.

THE GROWING season occurs in late winter, and at that season Mrs. Evert feeds her plant with a tablet form of plant fertilizer. She uses about 20 tablets for this large pot, pushing them down into the soil around the edge of the pot. The fertilizer is slowly released over an extended period of time.

She gives the plant outdoor application of fertilizer in midsummer. Scheffleras are quite disease and pest-free, but the Everts' plant was once infested with white spider mites which caused leaves to fall off. They took the plant outdoors and sprayed it with a garden plant miticide.

Mrs. Evert mulches her plant with a half inch of coffee grounds which she feels look attractive and retain moisture loss from the soil. She also puts cigar and cigarette ashes on as a mulch. She feels, help ward off spider mites.

The only other care this dramatic house plant needs is a bit of dusting and a few times a year Mrs. Evert washes the leaves with clear water and a soft cloth.

Books Topic

Of Talk

At Madonna

"Books Break Barriers" will be the theme of a lecture at Madonna College Sunday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. The college is located at 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

Sponsored by the Library Club, the lecture will take place in the College Residence Hall. Admission is free.

The speaker will be Dr. Joseph A. Wyrtwal, a counselor at Chautauque School, principal of the evening classes and director of the Wayne County Community College at Chautauque.

In his talk Dr. Wyrtwal will show how individuals can utilize ideals, philosophies and experiences expressed in good literature.

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## No Turbines, Though

# Broquet Moves Tractor Sales

operated that dealership for 14 years.

Broquet told trustees that the planning commission responded favorably to his plans at the preliminary hearing. But at the Nov. 20 public hearing, he added, commissioners asked questions he was not prepared to answer. The commission recommended denial on a split vote.

Broquet argued his dealership would upgrade the property (which is now a goat farm) and be an asset to the township because it would provide a good tax base. He added that Livonia's master plan calls for industrial use on the south side of Eight Mile.

TRUSTEE TOM NOLAN agreed the use would be an upgrading and said at the public hearing a commission was raised by persons who lived 1½ miles away.

Mrs. Grace Richardson, a planning commission member, reported the township's planning consultants, Villan-Le-man, recommended the rezoning and felt B-3 was a proper use for the area.

Charles Lorton, commission chairman, said the denial was not because of objections from residents but because of statements made by Broquet himself.

According to Lorton, Broquet told planners on Nov. 20 he would be repairing turbine engines on the site and would be storing vehicles awaiting repairs outside.

AT THIS POINT, Supervisor Curtis Hall said he had heard about the objections concerning turbine engine repair and wrote Ford Motor Co. for clarification.

Hall then read the letter which said Broquet's dealership would involve new tractor

sales, parts sales and service of vehicles.

"According to the letter, Ford says the dealership will not be franchised to sell or service turbine engines. Hall commented there must have been a misunderstanding about the turbine engines."

Lorton reminded Hall that the information came from Broquet. "You are going to build a quarter of a million dollar plant and don't know what you will sell?" Lorton asked Broquet.

DAVID STADER, commission secretary, commented that the commission does not reason for Ford Motor Co. but for a particular land use.

Stader cautioned the board about zoning for a particular business. If B-3 is granted, he said, a gas station and a number of other commercial uses could be developed. Rezoning did not guarantee a tractor dealership will be built, Stader warned.

A commercial use for that area may be acceptable, said Stader, but not a B-3.

NOLAN REPLIED there is not much B-3 vacant land left in the township and Broquet's site was a good B-3 parcel because it is located across the street from land shown as industrial in Livonia's master plan.

The township doesn't zone property on 14 Mile according to what West Bloomfield Township's master plans show, answered Lorton. "What we do for one area, let's do for another."

The township has 600 acres of mile roads to locate a B-3 on, added Lorton, so why limit this zone to Broquet's site?

Claude Coates, Villan-Le-man consultant, said he felt B-3 was a proper use because there was so little B-3 vacant land left in the township and Eight Mile is a heavily traveled road.

Trustee Margaret Schaffer asked to table the request for further study. But the tabling motion died for lack of support.

Nolan then moved approval and was supported by Mrs. Elise Avery. The motion passed 6-1 with Mrs. Schaffer voting no.

AFTER-PASSAGE, Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan said the rezoning may appear to be spot zoning because it results in a five-acre business parcel completely surrounded by residential areas.

Brennan suggested the planning commission consider changing the zoning on the frontage property along Eight Mile between Farmington Road and Drake.

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