

Wildflower garden hides in the midst of subdivisions

The wooded areas behind several homes in the Colony Park subdivision are deceptive. The beech-maple growth looks untouched by the onslaught of homes, lawns and carefully tended gardens.

That's what makes it especially exciting to discover the woods is a wildflower garden developed by Kay Wittliff, Ann Rodewig and Ann Hiner. All three live in homes that border on the area. Together they have studied and transplanted many species of woodland plants and flowers.

In the last days of May, trillium, in many delicate colors, had reached the peak of beauty, the lavender-blue wild geranium was in bloom, and the violets from white through blue and yellow were everywhere.

WILDFLOWER colors are subtle. One has to look carefully to reap the full beauty. Mrs. Wittliff pointed out a Canadian violet as an example, white with purple shading on the back side.

Nearby she found a birdfoot violet, the lavender flower recognizable, but the narrow, spiny leaves completely different from the usual, fat heart-shaped violet leaf.

White trillium, a protected species in Michigan, changes color and develops pink shadings in the latter part of its blooming period.

Trillium colors range from white to dark red and yellow-green with mixtures between.

Mrs. Rodewig is particularly fond of the toad shade or sessile trillium which has a yellow-green flower. She also has several white with touches of green on the petals.

Mrs. Wittliff pushed the leaves aside to cup her hands around a jack-in-the-pulpit and found a lady slipper, member of the orchid family, close by. The lady slipper looked like a small yellow balloon on a stem.

In early spring there was bloodroot and skunk cabbage, harbinger of spring, hyacinth in the woods. By July, the wild asters, mustard and in sunny spots Queen's Anne's lace bloom. The ferns, rue and tansey, are at their best.

MRS. WHITTLIFF says there are more than 200 species of wildflowers and they have attempted to acquire a good many—not all, as yet.

Since their efforts have brought them so much pleasure, they are trying to build respect and appreciation for wildflowers in others.

As members of the Farmington Area Naturalists, Mrs. Wittliff and Mrs. Rodewig participated in the wildflower programs recently presented to school district first and fourth graders. Many of the slides shown were taken by Mrs. Wittliff with her dental camera, which she says is excellent for color close-ups.

An important part of the program is to explain about the protected species. There are some 15 in the state which may be dug and transplanted only when they are endangered and with the permission of the land owner. Trillium is one of them, along with the lady's slipper, birdfoot violet, trailing

arbutus, dogwood, bittersweet, holly, gentian, club mosses pinks and several others.

"**WE TELL** them to pick all the dandelions they want, but please, not the trillium," said Ann Rodewig. "When a group of them came to see our gardens, several recognized the trillium, and one little boy said 'That's what we're not supposed to pick.' That's what we want to have happen."

Wildflower plants or seeds sometimes are available through local nurseries. They may be ordered from catalogues of more distant ones.

Besides the beauty of the garden, the hobby has some fringe benefits.

Mrs. Wittliff said, "I've met many interesting people through the courses at Schoolcraft College, on field trips tramping through woods and swamps and hiking in many parts of the country."

Mrs. Rodewig stood in her backyard looking toward the woods. "It's sort of wild, but I love it and leave it just as it is."

Mrs. Wittliff, camera in hand, came up beside her. Together they speculated on whether Alaskan wildflowers would grow in their woods. Chances are, they will give it a try.

Square dancers will whirl during festival

Square dancing in the Downtown Shopping Center and square dancers in the parade will be included in this year's Farmington Founders Festival.

Featured in the square dancing are the Fancy Farmers Square Dance Club, which was organized five years ago from a square dance class under the adult education program at Farmington High School. Fancy Farmer's caller, Bruce Light, is currently involved in teaching an adult class at the high school to further increase the number of participants.

Fancy Farmers of Farmington is a non-profit, PTA-sponsored group open to any resident who has acquired the square dance basics. It meets every two weeks at Duncel Junior High and draws crowds of between 50 to 100 dancers each night.

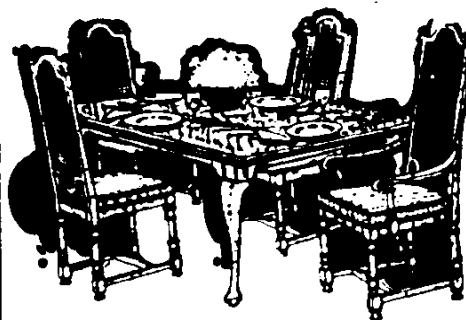
Fancy Farmers have been in the Founders Festival Parade for the past three years and, is planning a bigger and better entry this year.

This year the Fancy Farmers of Farmington Square Dance will be held at 9 p.m. on Friday, July 25, in the Downtown Shopping Center. The City Square Dance will be on Saturday, July 26, at 8:30 p.m., also in the Downtown Center.

The City Square Dance, under the direction of Evan Bageris and Doug Gaynor, will run until 11 p.m. In case of rain, the dance will be in Farmington Junior High School.

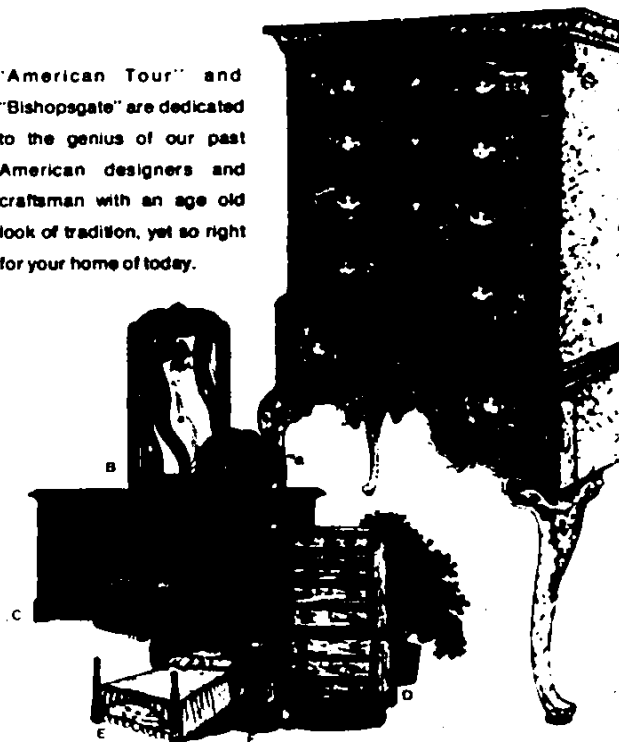
Two hundred years of tradition. At up-to-the-minute savings.

Heritage's
"AMERICAN TOUR" & Drexel's
"BISHOPSGATE"
at a
FABULOUS 25% OFF



Just in time for "Founders Days" and to celebrate our Fifteenth Annual Storewide Mid-Summer Sale, we've specially priced our two most American groups of bedroom, dining room and occasional furniture.

"American Tour" and "Bishopsgate" are dedicated to the genius of our past American designers and craftsmen with an age old look of tradition, yet so right for your home of today.



Have one of our professional I.D.S. Interior Designers show you the complete collection. Choose any of their pieces fitting your home and save 25%. BankAmericard, Master Charge or our own custom charge, of course.

Ray Interiors

furnishings for distinctive homes

33300 Blodum Drive, Farmington (2 mi. S. of Grand River off Farmington Rd.)
Phone 478-7272 Monday, Thursday, Friday 10 P.M.