

Couple find refuge in their own backyard

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have no wish to encroach further. Just beyond the well maintained rock garden, wildflowers sprout in such profusion that they appear to have been deliberately seeded. Mrs. Basse assures visitors the flowers are completely natural. As evidence, she points to thick growths of marsh marigolds covering the soggy ground at the bottom of the ravine.

Though small, the Basse garden features a wide variety of plants: mountain laurel, yucca, climbing hydrangea, trillium, blood root, May apples, jack-in-the-pulpit, adder's tongue or dog tooth violet, pachysandra, and variegated blue phlox. Small trees include a lace leaf maple and Harry Lauder's walking stick tree with contorted limbs.

The dogwood tree for years failed to produce any blossoms until the wedding of Basse's daughter. The buds have been appearing ever since.

Wide, terraced brick walks flank the patio and garden leading from the redwood deck above and cycling the house to a formal evergreen arrangement in the front yard.

Maintaining the garden is no special chore, according to Mrs. Basse, a member of the Beverly Hills branch of Women's National Farm and Garden.

There is not much grass to cut each week, and the beautiful dumps of moss which grow between bricks can be swept away when they become too

heavy. Most work involves keeping ivy in check and pruning occasionally. Evergreens in the rock garden are miniatures which grow very little and require no maintenance.

Because it is an "established garden," Mrs. Basse pointed out, some heavy repairs would soon have to be done. Railroad ties used to create steps have begun to rot. They will be replaced by creosoted redwood, which

she said has held up without apparent damage.

Plant life is not the only interest from this "window on the woods."

Two bird feeders draw large and small birds, and the family knows all the local birds by sight. Squirrels and rabbits abound, and a family of raccoons can often be seen cavorting in the trees. Many animals show no fear in coming up to the kitchen window-

sill for crumbs and seeds, the Basses claim.

Two married Basse children have taken after their parents and bought homes of their own with the idea of being in the woods and enjoying nature uppermost in their minds. That, said Mrs. Basse, couldn't have made her happier. Her month-old grandchild can grow up enjoying nature too.



Brickwork painstakingly hauled and installed by the Basse family has created a rustic but accessible scene in back of the family home.

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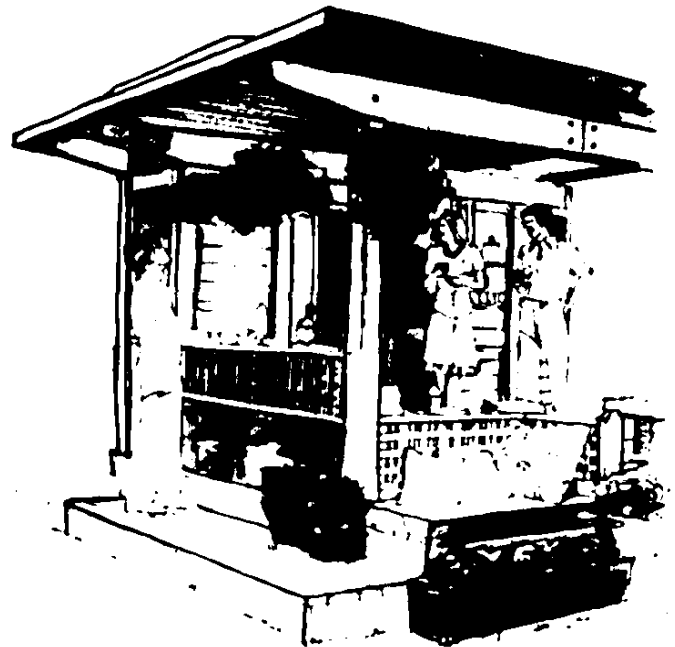
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